Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-94-154 *10 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Al-'Anani: Opening of Crossing Not 'Normalization'

JN0908112094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 26

[Report by AL-DUSTUR reporters in al-'Aqabah]

[Excerpts] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that the opening of the border crossing between Elat and al-'Aqabah is a step forward on the road to realizing the aspired peace between Jordan and Israel, and expressed the hope that confidence-building measures will continue in order to realize comprehensive peace on all fronts.

Dr. al-'Anani said there have been no contacts on arranging for an Iraqi-Israeli meeting.

He denied that the opening of the crossing is seen as a sort of normalization, and said it is a peace process that is proceeding in the right direction, one step here, and another there. He declined to name a date for reaching a bilateral peace agreement, and called for commitment to the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

He said that when the border demarcation is completed and when Jordan has had its water rights restored, it will be more ready to discuss the rest of issues, including opening the borders to Jordanian and Israeli citizens. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the Israeli pumping of 4 million cubic meters of water to the kingdom, Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Water Committee of the Jordanian-Israeli talks, said this is not something new, and it has been agreed on as a Jordanian share. He added that it is a sort of reconsideration and correction of shares and has nothing to do with the negotiations.

He said there will be no peace without solving the outstanding problems under negotiations such as water, borders, environment, and energy. [passage omitted]

Next Round of Israeli-Jordanian Talks Open

Rubinstein, al-Tarawinah Comment

TA0908110694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Israeli and Jordanian negotiators met today on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea for another round of bilateral negotiations. It was the first time the two sides had met on Israeli soil. On the agenda is the vexed question of water rights and a host of other issues, mostly in the realm of cooperation. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian delegation was welcomed by the chief Israeli negotiator, Elyaqim Rubinstein. He said the opening of negotiations between the two countries on Israeli soil was another step forward towards peace.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] Soon, God willing, we hope to open the second border crossing in the north, as announced in the Washington Declaration, after its exact location will be worked out by agreement.

Dr. al-Tarawinah, ladies and gentlemen: Even during hours of joy we should not forget, as His Highness, the crown prince, said yesterday: How can we forget that we have not yet reached the full desired tranquility? Even during these very days, dark and extreme forces in our neighborhood and the region outside continue to hurt the peace efforts. We mourn in our country our victims, but will not stop peace efforts, and we heard the echoes of the same thoughts in the message of His Highness yesterday.

We will work to this goal till it is reached. We believe that a just peace can and will be reached between us, in its full extent. Needless to say, we will honor every result of the negotiations in all spheres and we believe it is possible to achieve results which both sides view as just. [end recording]

The head of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, said since the signing of the Washington Declaration by King Husayn, Prime Minister Rabin, and President Clinton every day brought a new historic development.

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] We are meeting today on the premise of the Dead Sea Works, whose first input, namely water, was being supplied from across our common boundaries and in which many Jordanians in the 1940's saw a chance of livelihood and a future. We all know what became of their expectations. But our expectations—yours and ours—of the nineties, triggered by the events of recent days, should never be allowed to have a similar ending. In fact, they are faced—our two delegations—with an unprecedented challenge: that of living up to the anticipations of our two peoples and to their aspirations, which we know are peace, peace, and peace.

Nothing we value more, my colleagues and I, than achieving that noble goal. Nothing would please me more than working with you, Ambassador, to remove the obstacles that are obstructing our way to get there, and nothing would be more worth celebrating than the occasion when we deliver to our peoples, via our historic leaders, what they have always dreamt of.

What we have witnessed in recent days and yesterday is like the coming of spring. When spring comes, can fruits be far behind? [end recording]

Rubinstein Addresses Session

JN0908123494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Speech by Elayaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Jordan, at the Moriah

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Plaza Dead Sea Hotel on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, on 9 August—recorded, in English]

[Excerpt] Good morning ladies and gentlemen, the Jordanian delegation, the Israeli delegation: We want first to welcome you all, for the first time in our negotiations, in Israel. In fact, we reciprocate now, after having been hosted so graciously by the Jordanian Government first on the other side of the Dead Sea, and then now, yesterday in this very historic event of the meetings in al-'Aqabah. On behalf of our government, I would like to thank the Jordanian Government, his majesty, his royal highness, the government, for the hospitality, for the atmosphere, for the very good beginning, or new beginning, in new era of the relationship and we were all moved by what happened yesterday. We look forward to a continued work together on the path towards peace.

Ladies and gentlemen: The spirit of the Washington Declaration and the meetings of yesterday are with us today, as we resume the bilateral negotiation. The echoes of the unforgettable event, where His Majesty King Husayn joined Prime Minister Rabin, in the presence of President Clinton, in announcing the termination of the state of belligerency and war between Israel and Jordan, these echoes are still with us today. So with the sound of the wings of his majesty's plane crossing the sky of Israel. And we had an opportunity to talk about it just a minute later, Dr. al-Tarawinah and myself, as I called him from Tel Aviv from my car, in fact, when I was watching the plane and listening to the radio and calling Dr. al-Tarawinah to tell him I just saw the plane.

And then the voices of the direct telephone link inaugurated two days ago between the president of Israel and his majesty, the king of Jordan. And, of course, we were all encouraged by the very touching moments of yesterday in the crossing point and in al-'Aqabah.

So, the noise of the sweeping of mines, which have divided us, as the prime minister mentioned yesterday, symbolized the end of the state of war. These war symbols are gone and the path of peace between the two countries has replaced them with the assistance of the military forces of both countries. May this be the only role [for the Armed Forces of both countries]. Soon, God willing, we hope to open a second border crossing in the north, as announced in the Washington Declaration, after its exact location will be worked out by agreement.

Dr. al-Tarawinah, ladies and gentlemen: Even during hours of joy, we should not forget, as his highness the crown prince said yesterday: How can we forget that we have not yet reached the full desired tranquility. Even during these very days, dark and extreme forces in our neighborhood in the region and outside continue to hurt the peace effort. We mourn in our country our victims, but will not stop peace efforts. and we heard the echoes of the same thought in the message of his highness yesterday. We will work to this goal until it is reached.

Dr. al-Tarawinah, friends: Our delegations will continue, this week and next week, the negotiations on matters of substance, on the road to the treaty of peace—Security [and] Boundary [Commission], which is meeting today in the 'Aravah, water, economy, environment, energy, civil aviation, tourism, the fight against crime and drugs, etc. We believe that a just peace can, and will, be reached between us in its fullest sense. Needless to say, we will honor every result of the negotiations in all spheres, and we believe it is possible to achieve results which both sides view as just.

As I was watching the transformation of the minefield and the hills and the little, kind of, that road into a real, lively road between the two countries, just a few days we were there and Tuesday seeing the first negotiation and on Monday everything was already transformed, I thought to myself that we were witnessing with our own eyes the beautiful comfort prophecy of Prophet Ezekiel, which symbolizes not only the physical transformation, but also the spiritual change, the change of heart among our two countries and the prophet says: [passage omitted comprising quote in Hebrew].

Al-Tarawinah Addresses Session

JN0908122694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Speech by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, chief of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks with Israel, at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, on 9 August—recorded, in English]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon His prophet. [preceding two phrases in Arabic] Ambassador Rubinstein, distinguished delegates:

Never in the previous days, or decades, have fiction and reality come so close to each other. The feelings that have paralleled them over the past two weeks have been both unique and exciting. We owe a great deal to the wisdom and courage of His Majesty King Husayn, and we feel in that, to the positive and immediate response of the Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Both have made possible the mergence of fiction and reality in recent days. Thanks are due as much to them as they are to the President of the United States of America, President Bill Clinton.

In Washington a declaration was aired on the 25th of July, and was simultaneously endorsed and signed by his majesty the king and the prime minister of Israel. The entire world is a witness to the commitments expressed therein, and President Clinton attested to the declaration with his own signature. History has been since then in the making.

Each day qualifies to be a separate chapter in the Middle East, known to you, and to your colleagues, Ambassador, and to my colleagues, and myself, and to the whole world. The events of the past two days, two weeks, are so vivid in our memories, from the trilateral committee meeting that we hosted on our shore of the Dead Sea, to

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the Washington Declaration, to the safe return of His Majesty King Husayn to Amman through his overflight of the holy city and the Israeli airspace, and to the spectacular events of yesterday, which we all were very lucky to witness, and finally to the meeting of today, marking the first of several that we all will hold on Israeli soil, with equal frequency of several meetings on Jordanian soil.

It is indeed an era of mergence of the extremes. We live today a state of ending the state of war that had prevailed for 46 years, two weeks ago. We are meeting today on the premise of the Dead Sea, Dead Sea Works, whose first input to being; namely, water, was being supplied from across our common boundary, and in which many Jordanians in the 1940's saw a chance of livelihood and a future. We all know what became of their expectations, but our expectations—yours and ours—of the 90's, triggered by the events of recent days should never be allowed to have a similar ending. In fact, they have faced our two delegations with unprecedented challenge, that of living up to the anticipations of our two peoples, and to their aspirations, which we know, are peace, peace, and peace.

Nothing we value more, my colleagues and I, than achieving that noble goal. Nothing would please me more than working with you, Ambassador, to remove the obstacles that are obstructing our way to get there. And nothing would be more worth celebrating than the occasion when we deliver to our peoples, via our historic leaders, what they have always dreamed of.

What we have witnessed in recent days and yesterday feels like the coming of spring. When spring comes, can fruits be far behind?

Thank you very much.

Jordanian Spokesmen Comment

JN0908171294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The subcommittees emanating from the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations have met on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. Spokesman of the Jordanian side, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, and his Israeli counterpart held a joint press conference and spoke about progress achieved so far in the talks.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said in today's meeting a number of important issues related to the borders, land, water, and economic matters had been discussed.

He said: As far as the topics of water and borders are concerned, the two sides agreed on the principles and they are now discussing the details.

He said agreement had been reached to delineate the borders according to the British mandate lines. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the reaction of the street in Jordan to peace is positive. He said the majority of the Jordanians, including the parliament, want a just and comprehensive settlement which Jordan is seeking.

He said the opening of the crossing point yesterday is a step which would be followed by other steps to solve all pending issues between Jordan and Israel.

The spokesman said: These issues are incorporated in the joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda, which was agreed upon last September.

He said: We are not here trying to find to find parallel lines for the negotiations.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: The current peace moves come within the context of pushing the negotiations forward.

Replying to a question on the development of the region, he said: Future development projects are now under study.

The Jordanian spokesman said: There is a plan covering developing the Jordan Valley in general. The plan comprises a number of projects in tourism and economy and other aspects of development.

He expressed hope that the pending issues, foremost of which is the issue of borders and water, be solved in order to start implementing such development plans.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of the Israeli side said the subcommittees on borders, security, economy, tourism, and others are continuing their meetings to tackle the matters listed on the agenda.

He said negotiations would continue tomorrow and will resume on Monday [15 August] after a recess on the occasion of His Majesty King Husayn's accession to the throne on Thursday.

Subcommittees Start Meetings

JN0908175794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Meetings of the Jordanian-Israeli borders and territory committees started today at a site 13 km to the north of al-'Aqabah.

Staff Major General Tahsin Shurdum, head of the security and borders committee, said the committee met today at Wadi al-'Arabah to discuss security issues stipulated in the agenda agreed upon by the Jordanian and Israeli sides which aims at finding a comprehensive solutions to the pending issues between the two countries.

Speaking at the conclusion of the meetings of the two Jordanian-Israeli subcommittees, Shurdum added that the work started to execute the plans agreed upon by the two sides to start border demarcation. He said the work of the two committees requires technical measures related to the production of aerial photographs and maps by the two parties.

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Israeli Spokesmen Comment

JN1008062694 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1942 GMT 9 Aug 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Israeli delegation [to the peace talks with Jordan] members hailed the recent developments as providing a new momentum for the peace process. [Amman Television correspondent] Nida' al- Ramahi asked two spokesmen of the Israeli delegation on their impressions and reactions:

[Begin recording] [Al-Ramahi] How do you think the negotiations went, and how did they set the stage for tomorrow's negotiations?

[Israeli spokesman Aviv Sharon] First of all, I'd like to state that I was impressed by the goodwill and the momentum that was achieved in the negotiations. I think that the events of the last few weeks, the events, for example of yesterday in the border crossing in the south and in al-'Aqabah gave the negotiations positive momentum and it was felt in all the negotiating room.

[Israeli spokesman Yosi Gal] We were all encouraged to see the reaction in Israel, the overwhelming reaction, in Israel to the Washington Declaration. We were encouraged to see the reaction in Jordan, and we believe that both these reactions of the people will be very helpful in determining the outcome of this negotiations. We also hope that this spirit that prevails between us and the Jordanians will affect others in the Middle East as well so that they can join us in this peacemaking effort. [end recording]

Jordanians on Committee Meeting

JN1008065494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The Jordanian-Israeli session of negotiations will resume on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea today. The official opening session of the negotiations was held yesterday. The Jordanian side was led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, and the Israeli side was led by Elyaqim Rubinstein. During the meetings, the subcommittees held a series of meetings to discuss agenda topics.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, and Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, the delegation's spokesman, spoke to our correspondent Jamal al-'Abbadi on the committees' meetings.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] Several committees met. These included the border and land committee, which met in Wadi al-'Arabah in the south, as well as the security, water, environment, and energy committees. The economic committee also met and discussed the issue of banks and trade with the West Bank.

Several committees were formed after the Washington Declaration, including the Civil Aviation Committee, which will discuss opening the airspace between the two countries. There are also other subcommittees such as the one on the comprehensive development of Jordan Valley. This subcommittee decided that development should be carried out within a clear concept according to which projects will be implemented. We are now speaking about comprehensive development of the Jordan Valley, and we believe that we made a large stride in today's meeting because we moved from talk on general principles to the details.

For the first time Israel has recognized Jordan's rights to al-Yarmuk and Jordan River waters. Now talks focus on the quantity and quality of water. As for borders, the framework was agreed in last year's agenda. This subject will be decided in accordance with the line agreed on during the British Mandate in 1922. A joint committee on border demarcation has been formed, and this committee will work out joint maps and carry out joint surveys in order to fix the permanent milestones between Jordan and Israel. [end recording]

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah commented on the atmosphere of the talks, especially in the wake of the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, saying:

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] We began the peace process two and a half years ago, and we have (?tackled) many issues. Now, this new spirit has put us on the right track and we have begun discussing details that we have never dealt with. These meetings created new momentum for the whole process. The Washington Declaration, in particular, the Dead Sea meetings, and yesterday's meetings gave us a strong push concerning several issues on which we concentrated and agreed. Now we have moved to the details of these issues. We cannot say that we do not have any problems, however. The word problem may mean a technical issue that should be tackled to reach joint basis. Now we want to continue spreading this new atmosphere. In fact, this atmosphere has greatly influenced the spirit of the talks and put the talks on the right track. While we speak about the continuation of the talks, we hope that there will be a commitment to the implementation of clauses of the Washington Declaration. God willing, by the end of this stage, specific issues will be addressed in addition to what has been realized in Washington. [end recording]

Talks on Borders Continue

TA0908142494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The discussions between the Israeli and the Jordanian delegations in 'En 'Avrona will continue tomorrow in the same place. The head of the Israeli delegation for borders and security issue told our correspondent Moti Amir that the committees will mainly discuss border demarcation in the 'Arava.

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During the discussions, teams dealing with flight links between Israel and Jordan will determine flight paths for Jordanian civilian planes through Israeli skies. Our economic correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that, according to Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar, Jordan wants the path to cross central Israel, but Israel will allow the Jordanian planes to fly in a path in the northern Israel, the precise location to be determined in coordination with the defense establishment and the Air Force.

'Arafat, Rabin To Hold Discussions in Cairo

Palestinian Delegate on Talks

JN0908153294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi from the "With the Midday Events" program—italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] The Palestinian side expects tomorrow's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to achieve progress in the current talks in Cairo on the early transfer of powers in the West Bank and to resolve the standing issues, which have not yet been resolved in the Cairo talks.

Regarding the issues that will be raised in that meeting and the hopes pinned on it, Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, says:

['Asfur]*This will be the first meeting between Brother President Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin to be held on Palestinian territory. The meeting will also be significant in view of the fact that it has been some time since the Cairo Agreement was signed by Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Yitzhaq Rabin. The meeting will give a new boost to the entire peace process and the agreement. We hope this will be achieved, especially since there are many issues that require a serious decision by the Israeli Government to give new momentum to implement this agreement, not only within the framework of the current talks in Cairo, but to implement the agreement itself, several points of it. We believe this meeting may provide a new opportunity to boost the peace process and give further confidence to the political process itself after it had suffered certain complications and problems during the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.*

Meanwhile, the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators continue their meetings in Cairo on the early transfer of powers in five fields—education, health, tourism, social affairs, and taxes. On the mechanism of these negotiations, 'Asfur says:

[Asfur]*We do not think the problem lies in the issues we are discussing in the negotiations on the early transfer of powers. But we believe there are certain problems with the Israeli position. Israel links these issues to other issues, and we do not think the issues under discussion are the direct reason. Matters are still governed by certain negative aspects in the political thinking, particularly as regards the security issues. Israel will continue to have leverage on the security aspect inside the West Bank and it thinks that any field that is transferred to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank must remain within this framework. Therefore, there are other issues that govern this subject. We hope that all the disputed issues can be overcome. We are not facing very serious problems as far as the substance is concerned. But these problems are the product of complications resulting from linking these early issues and other issues, as well as the Israeli political thinking.*

The two parties will decide today if they will conclude the round of talks today or not in view tomorrow's meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin on the Erez Crossing Point on the outskirts of Gaza.

Leaders To Discuss Elections

TA0908133894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th said today that in the Rabin-'Arafat meeting tomorrow, the Palestinians will raise the issue of elections in the territories. Sha'th denied remarks the prime minister made yesterday, according to which the Palestinians have not yet raised the issue of elections despite the fact that the issue is mentioned in the agreements between Israel and the PLO. According to him, the Palestinians want to hold the elections soon, and Israel is to blame for their being delayed.

It was further reported that, in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, 'Arafat asked that elections be held soon because he needs his nation's support.

Other Topics Reported

NC0908143194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Gaza, 9 Aug (MENA)—A Palestinian source today said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in his meeting tomorrow with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, will urge the start of negotiations concerning Jerusalem's future.

The source said that the Palestinians are committed to the Declaration of Principle's clause on Jerusalem, but the Israelis have brought up the issue by referring to Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital and attempting to fragment the Palestinian sovereignty over the holy city.

'Arafat will also call for implementing the Declaration of Principles with regard to the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, the opening of four safe passages between Gaza and the West Bank, the control of the crossings, and the early transfer of power in the West Bank to the self-rule authority, according to the source.

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Also on the agenda will be the question of Israel's paying back to the Palestinian side the fees and taxes it collected during the occupation period. Such funds would help the self-rule authority carry out its tasks, the source said.

The Palestinian source stated that the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting is expected to decide on the issue of the entry of the Palestinian National Authority's cars into the self-rule areas as well as flights between Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat will discuss with Rabin certain Israeli practices considered in conflict with the Declaration of Principles, such the stripping of topsoil and the ill treatment of Palestinian police and citizens at the crossings, according to the source.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of presidential affairs, and Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian authority in charge of the Jerusalem file, will attend tomorrow's meeting. A Palestinian-Israeli committee held a meeting this morning in Erez to prepare for tomorrow's meeting.

Sha'th Expects 'New Mechanism'

NC0908181494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, has said that tomorrow's meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will produce a new mechanism that would help settle many unresolved issues.

Speaking following a session of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo today, Sha'th said that 'Arafat and Rabin will discuss Jerusalem, self-rule authority elections, and the outcome of the Jordanian-Israeli talks.

Sha'th Asks To Meet Weizman on Prisoner Release

NC0908194494 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 9 (AFP)—Leading PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th on Tuesday [9 August] asked to meet Israeli President Ezer Weizman to try to speed up the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Palestinians say Israel has reneged on a promise to release more than 6,000 prisoners in Israeli jails, laid down by the Gaza-Jericho autonomy accord.

"The Israelis say the release of civilian prisoners requires the agreement of the president of the republic.

"For that reason I officially requested today a meeting with Weizman," Sha'th said during the fifth session of Israeli-Palestinian talks here on the extension of autonomy.

Sha'th, also planning and cooperation "minister" in the new Palestinian authority, added the Israelis had told him "there is no problem with such a meeting taking place."

He said "almost 5,000" prisoners were still held in Israeli jails.

Last week he announced the imminent release of 10 Palestinian prisoners but it did not happen. He also said Israel had "promised" to free several prisoners in poor health.

The issue of Palestinian prisoners is one of the security issues left over from the May 4 self-rule accord, as well as free passage between Gaza and Jericho and the redeployment of the Israeli army outside population centres in the West Bank.

Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat is to discuss some of the disputed issues when he meets Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Wednesday, while Sha'th is to meet Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal on Friday.

Israel To Transfer West Bank Tourism Authority

NC0908165294 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 9 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO on Tuesday [9 August] agreed on the transfer of authority over tourism to Palestinians in the West Bank but postponed talks on finance until next week.

Their decision came as the World Bank said it would help finance the Palestinians' budget deficit and speed up delayed assistance to Gaza and Jericho.

The two sides here agreed that Israel would keep control over archaeological sites, while the new Palestinian Authority will take charge of tourism services.

The tourism issue was finalised in the fifth session of talks here on the extension of Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank.

Negotiators have now hammered out the transfer of powers in four of five designated sectors—education, health and social affairs as well as tourism.

But the fifth sector, a system of income tax, is causing problems. "Income tax is not an easy issue," said General Dani Rothschild, Israeli delegation head.

"When we have finished it, we will talk about enforcement and a general paper."

The two sides have agreed to draw up an overall document outlining the new Palestinian powers, which will be sent to international donors who have pledged to make up the shortfall in the Palestinian budget until the tax system is up and running.

According to Rothschild, the shortfall will be between 22 and 50 million dollars over the first six months.

International donors have complained of a lack of proper Palestinian accounting procedures and have channeled through the World Bank only 47.5 million dollars of the 720 million pledged for the first year of self-rule.

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Top PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said the Israelis had also pledged to hand over control of crossing points between the autonomous areas and neighbouring countries to Palestinians next Thursday.

He said Israel had delayed the handover—which should have taken place shortly after the May 4 self-rule accord—by giving "excuses" about preparation.

The Palestinians have complained about their treatment at crossing points, especially at Erez between the Gaza Strip and Israel where Arab workers clashed with Israeli troops last month.

Sha'th said negotiators would also discuss next week delayed elections to a Palestinian autonomy council which will govern the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He said Israelis were to blame because they refused to discuss the redeployment of troops necessary before the polls can start.

The talks were broken off here Tuesday because of a meeting on Wednesday between PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Negotiators Leave Cairo

NC0908200194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—A 21-member Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, led by Dani Rothschild, coordinator of the Israeli Government's activities in the occupied territories, left Cairo this evening after a one-day visit. The Israeli negotiators held several meetings with the Palestinians, whose delegation was chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian minister of planning and international cooperation.

Israel Offers Syria Change of 'Format of Talks'

TA0908181294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a]

[Text] Israel has offered a change of format for the talks with Syria by moving them to our region. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that, according to the Israeli offer, Syria will be represented by its U.S. Ambassador Walid al- Mu'allim. President al-Asad did not reject the idea.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expects a breakthrough to take place during his next visit to the region, and Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, shares this estimate. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a updates us on the progress made in the contacts with Syria:

[Begin recording] [Barne'a] When Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus two days ago, he already knew—from his preparatory conversation with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—that he will not be returning there during this shuttle mission. In the five hours he spent with al-Asad, he once again heard the Syrian president's remarks about his willingness to attain a peace agreement with Israel before the end of this year, but not at all cost. Al-Asad is now asked to make a compromise, and is examining not only the price Israel will have to pay for his compromise, but also the size of the reward he could obtain from the United States in return for the compromise he was asked to make. This was confirmed this evening by Christopher's top aides who attended the meeting with al-Asad and described the current state of the process as serious haggling.

This evening, Shim'on Peres told us about new ideas that will have to be digested, although Christopher left Israel and did not go back to Damascus:

[Peres] This in no way indicates that this is the end of the negotiations. It means that this is the method of negotiations. An idea is being tossed in the air. It is digested, examined, and the negotiations continue. This is how it will be in the future.

[Barne'a] Is there any specific idea you could tell us about that needs to be digested at this time?

[Peres] I am not my specific self today. I have no specific idea I could tell you about.

[Barne'a] Shim'on Peres was not willing to elaborate on what Christopher left behind here to be digested, but it should be stated clearly this evening: Al-Asad knows exactly what he could get from Israel and what he will have to give in return. At the same time, he is not yet clear on the maximum benefits he could get from the U.S. administration. Therefore, like a shrewd Arab tradesman, he focuses his efforts on haggling with the Americans more seriously than with Israel. For his part, Warren Christopher primarily wants the negotiations in Washington to resume. Syria already agrees to that. It is, however, not yet ready to accept Shim'on Peres' idea to upgrade the level of negotiations to that of foreign ministers. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 5 Aug

NC0908150794

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Egypt Pledges To Control Population Growth
2. Controversy Continues Over Ban on Islamic Dress in Schools
3. Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan Criticizes Washington Declaration

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4. Article Views Jerusalem Clause in Washington Declaration

EGYPT PLEDGES TO CONTROL POPULATION GROWTH

A 250-word factual report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on page 1 says "Egypt has pledged to the United Nations to stop population growth completely and to stabilize the size of the population." The report adds that President Mubarak signed a document to this effect prepared by the UN Population Fund. This document will be announced at the International Conference on Population and Development *[ICPD] scheduled* to be held in Cairo in September as "one of the achievements of the UN Population Fund." A source in the Ministry of Housing said Egypt was a forerunner in signing this pledge which aims at achieving a zero growth situation in which the number of births will equal the number of deaths.

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER BAN ON ISLAMIC DRESS IN SCHOOLS

A 250-word report on page 1 says following the recent popular outcry, Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has backed down on his decision banning female students from wearing Islamic dress [al-hijab]. The report, however, notes that "regrettably," the minister has not rescinded the decision officially. The non-rescinding of the decision "does not inspire confidence and does not help calm feelings." Despite the minister's remarks, "the sedition still exists" and will not disappear except when the decision is officially rescinded.

On page 3, the newspaper carries a 500-word interview with the Education Minister by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus. In the introduction to the interview, 'Abd-al-Quddus notes that the minister "was angry" at the intensive campaign unleashed against him in previous AL-SHA'B issues and "we were angry with his policy," the latest in which is the subject of al-hijab. In answer to questions, the minister said "several schools impose al-hijab on female students." He says he opposes this strongly and that is why he has decided to confront this phenomenon. He adds he supports free choice and opposes coercion in regard to what a female student should wear. He says he wants to ascertain that the female student voluntarily and not forcibly wears al-hijab. He adds that he has received "several complaints that some schools and extremist groups have imposed al-hijab on the female students, and this is something that we reject."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN JORDAN CRITICIZES WASHINGTON DECLARATION

A 250-word report on page 8 says the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] group in Jordan considers the clause on Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin tantamount to "abandonment of Arab and Islamic rights" in the city. The MB accused the government of undermining the parliament's role by negotiating with Israel. The Islamic Movement deputies have declared their readiness to withdraw from parliament if they find this necessary. 'Abd-al-Majid Dhunaybat, new MB controller general, has disclosed that the government intends to prosecute some Islamic Movement deputies on charges of delivering sermons in mosques denouncing the negotiations with Israel. He explained that the mosques' preachers have the right to explain to their citizens the dangers surrounding the area resulting from the negotiations with the "Zionists."

ARTICLE VIEWS JERUSALEM CLAUSE IN WASHINGTON DECLARATION

A 700-word article by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafat on page 8 carries the title "Separation of Religious Sovereignty From Political Sovereignty Is a Zionist-U.S. Plan To Swallow Jerusalem." The article says that through the Jordanian-Israeli declaration the "Zionists have succeeded in driving a wedge between 'Arafat and King Husayn and in creating an Arab-Arab conflict over who should have religious supervision over the Islamic holy places in the city. The article adds that the declaration has given "the Zionists an opportunity to exercise their political sovereignty over the holy city." The declaration has created "a fictitious battle over who has the right to supervise the mosques in Jerusalem" and showed the "Zionists as guardians of religious freedoms in the city." "Thus, Jerusalem is open religiously" "but is closed politically and an eternal capital of Israel," as Peres has stated. The article adds that "it was natural for the United States to bless the Zionist plan and the clause on Jerusalem in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement." "It was also natural for Egypt and the PLO to oppose this clause" because it contravenes a clause in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement calling for the discussion of the final status of Jerusalem after 2 years. "Therefore, the Arabs and Muslims are in a real quandary because of the Israeli-U.S. plotting to keep Jerusalem united in the hands of the Zionists."

Palestinian Affairs

Jericho Mayor Resigns, Blames Authority

TA0908161694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf today quit his post. Khalaf, who was appointed Jericho mayor by Israel 17 years ago, today submitted his resignation notice to Yasir 'Arafat, saying he is resigning in view of the Palestinian Authority's interfering in running city affairs, as he put it.

Explains Move; 'Urayqat Comments

JN0908173594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1512 GMT 9 Aug 94

[From the "With the Events" program]

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[Text] Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf has submitted his resignation to Yasir 'Arafat, attributing this to the current circumstances which do not enable him to manage the municipality affairs, such as the injustice being done to him and to citizens. As'ad 'Attar has the details:

[Begin recording] ['Attar] Some officials are obstructing the work of the municipality. Injustice is being done to me, the municipality, and the citizens. What is worse is that they are harming my dignity. These words reflect the disappointment experienced by Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf, as he explained the reasons for his resignation.

[Khalaf] Since the 1976 elections, I have served the municipality as its head for 14 years, and as a member along with the late 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Suwayti for three years. Now, some officials are obstructing the work of the municipality. I believe that injustice is being done to me and to the municipality. Things are being done that harm one's dignity, which make it impossible to continue our duties.

['Attar] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat [Palestinian local government minister], good evening.

['Urayqat] Good evening.

['Attar] We have heard the Jericho mayor saying that he resigned because of the injustice that was done to him and because his dignity was harmed. What is your comment?

['Urayqat] The mayor can say whatever he wants. This is part of his personal freedom. I do not know of any injustice that was done to him. At any rate, we support the freedom of expression. Since he has submitted his resignation directly, it will be examined and a decision will be made. This is the kind of administrative problem that we are suffering from. I have never heard of any harm done to any person in Jericho, whether the mayor or any ordinary citizen.

['Attar] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: Was it not premature to appoint preparatory committees or officers to work with the Jericho mayor, for example?

['Urayqat] Regarding the appointment of a number of brothers who arrived from abroad in the security organ, there was cooperation in agriculture, transportation, tourism, municipality affairs, and the existing and new offices. It was a difficult transitional period. I do not know on what basis he is saying such things. However, as I said, to the best of our ability, we tried not to interfere in others' affairs. He knows very well that I did not even visit this municipality because I was fully convinced that if I were to visit the municipality to inspect it, I would be charged with interfering, something which I did not do. He visited me in my office. We talked about many matters and in good spirit.

['Attar] We asked Jamil Sabri Khalaf whether he will run for the Jericho municipality elections.

[Khalaf] If the elections are held under true democracy, I will serve my country, God willing. Now, it is premature to say yes or no. [end recording]

'Arafat Claims Jerusalem Invitation Rights

NC0908194094 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Aug 9 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat on Tuesday [9 August] insisted that only he has the right to extend invitations to Jerusalem, after Jordan's King Husayn accepted an Israeli invitation to the holy city.

'Arafat was speaking to reporters after meeting with Ahmed Ben Souda, an envoy of Morocco's King Hassan.

"As I said before, the only one with the right to give invitations to Jerusalem is the head of the Palestinian Authority, in the name of the Palestinian people," he said.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman marked the opening of direct telephone links with Jordan on Sunday by calling King Husayn to invite him to Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also issued an invitation as the king piloted his own plane above Tel Aviv and Jerusalem last week.

King Husayn expressed his "right" to visit Jerusalem on Monday, though he said he had not yet set a date.

'Arafat said he had appealed to the king of Morocco as soon as he heard about the Israeli-Jordanian declaration signed on July 25, which angered Palestinians by promising Jordan a special role in talks about the future of Jerusalem.

"I am sure he will do his duty fully," 'Arafat said.

The Moroccan king is considered a direct descendent of the Prophet Muhammad, and heads the Jerusalem Committee, a pan-Islamic organization.

His envoy Ahmed Ben Souda said his country was working "quietly and behind the scenes," at solving the Jerusalem dispute.

"We won't stop until the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem," he said.

Israel, which captured the eastern sector of the city in 1967, claims Jerusalem as its eternal, undivided capital. The Palestinians want it to be the capital of their future state.

'Arafat Awaiting U.S. 'Steps'

TA0908175694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Aug 94 pp 1, 23

["Exclusive" AL-QUDS report]

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[Text] Gaza—Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, affirmed last night that the president is currently following up the steps that are expected to be taken in the wake of his recent meeting in Alexandria with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Those steps are related to U.S. efforts aimed at removing the obstacles in order to ensure a meticulous implementation of Cairo's agreement of 4 May.

It is worth noting that during his meeting with Christopher, President 'Arafat stressed the need for the United States to play the role of peace sponsor by endeavoring for an honest and meticulous implementation of the 4 May agreement. He also asked the United States to accelerate the transfer of power to the Palestinians in the West Bank and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from there in order to enable the Palestinians to hold their elections in a climate of freedom.

Paper Views 'Main Test' of Christopher Visit

TA0908175294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 13

[Editorial: "A Real Test Before Christopher"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's seventh tour of the region comes at a time when the Jordanian-Israeli track is witnessing new and speedy developments. [passage omitted]

Certainly, this accelerated progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track does not constitute the main objective of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region. The objective is especially noted in Washington's declaration of its commitment to the achievement of a comprehensive peace and promised to work to invigorate the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks and support the continued implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

However, the tension that has emanated in south Lebanon, which definitely is inconsistent with the climate of peace, and the fact that so far there have been no indications of an imminent "breakthrough" in the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli talks are liable to place Christopher's new mission before a real test, just as they are liable to place official U.S. statements before the same test.

The necessary equation is clear to the U.S. Administration for the required progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. This equation is Israel's readiness to fully withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights and implement Security Council Resolution 425 relating to withdrawal from south Lebanon so as to advance toward the aspired for peace. It is also clear that progress in the Palestinian-Israeli track requires an Israeli readiness to implement the various commitments and pledges stipulated in the Oslo and Cairo agreements as well as adherence to the timetables set in this regard.

Hence, the main test of the success of Christopher's mission in his new tour does not lie in today's ceremonies at the new border post in the 'Arava Valley, a step that has been previously agreed upon. Rather the main test is the ability to persuade Israel to change its positions in order to bring about the required progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and implement the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Only thus can one talk about being seriously committed to moving toward a comprehensive peace.

Paper Notes 'Israel's Dangerous Intentions'

TA0908174494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 5 Aug 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Let Us Talk About Jerusalem Now!"]

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has called for the immediate resumption of negotiations concerning the final status of Jerusalem. This is despite the fact that the Oslo Agreement specifies that these negotiations are to take place at the beginning of the third year from the start of the implementation of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jordanian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington last month violated the Oslo Agreement with its article on Jerusalem. By so doing, it accelerated the need to resume the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, and to decide on the final status of the Holy City, now not later.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, refused the president's demand and insisted, according to his declaration on Radio of Israel this week, that discussions would begin on the subject according to a predetermined date in 1996.

We wonder what is going on with Mr. Rabin and his predetermined date. He, himself, used to say that there are no sacred dates. Moreover, he always used to say that he would not be committed to the date stipulated in the Oslo Agreement. We can always find a long list of examples to depict the Israeli government's noncommittal to predetermined dates, since the day the agreement was signed between the Palestinians and Israelis in Washington, DC on July 13, 1993.

Why then does he talk about sacred dates in this case, especially since he never took the others seriously?

It is obvious that the Israeli government is not concerned or committed to any of the agreements signed with the Palestinians. It attempts to delay or escape from the most important issue—Jerusalem—as a condition to resume the peace process.

Since we consider Jerusalem the basic and fundamental issue for peace to prevail in the Middle East, we are skeptical about Israel's dangerous intentions. Israel must not exploit the gap existing among the Arab positions on

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the issue because this will reflect negatively on the steps needed to be taken to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Israel must also stop imposing restrictions on the Palestinian institutions and stop changing the reality on the ground, by building more settlements in and around Jerusalem and continuing the military siege. These oppressive measures can expose this issue to many dangers in the future.

It is essential then to speed up the negotiations over this critical issue, so we can avoid jeopardizing the future of the Holy City.

Al-Husayni on Jerusalem, Jordan-Israel Talks

JN0908170094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Interview with Palestinian National Authority member Faysal al-Husayni by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: You held talks with Jordanian officials in light of the Washington Declaration. What was the Jordanian position on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, it was emphasized in this meeting that the Jordanian position considers sovereignty over Jerusalem to be Palestinian sovereignty, and that this issue is indisputable. With regard to Jordan's role in the holy places, which Jordan played in the past, Jordan has a desire to continue playing this role. This issue can be discussed in the meetings of the Palestinian-Jordanian committees in a way that will not conflict with the Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem.

[Mu'addi] Did the Jordanian responses in this regard reassure the Palestinian side? Can it be said that this issue is over?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that what is required is further joint Palestinian-Jordanian action. Such action can bring about further reassurance and harmony on the ground, which we hope for. We do not look forward to meetings which do not have any substance.

[Mu'addi] Did the talks with the Jordanians pave the way for holding a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn to end the differences between the two sides?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that there are no differences in the first place. There are only some issues which need joint action to fill any gaps here and there. I believe that the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship is good and can be promoted provided that there is a practical contribution on the ground.

[Mu'addi] How does the Palestinian side view the current developments in Jordanian-Israeli relations?

[Al-Husayni] Our position is that any breakthrough on any front in the peace process will undoubtedly help other fronts, and that all of us ultimately seek a final solution without leaving any party behind. Phased solutions can be discussed and be acceptable as long as they do not harm reaching a final solution.

[Mu'addi] Some opponents among the Fatah Central Committee members, led by Faruq Qaddumi, are holding a meeting in Tunis. Do you not believe that this meeting may weaken the Palestinian position in this particular phase?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinian position remains the same whether the Tunis meeting is held or not. This is because a real situation exists. Opposition and supporting forces also exist. Perhaps, such meetings can put these differences to the test and on the table for real discussions, so each party can explain its objections, priorities, and alternatives.

[Mu'addi] A meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat will be held at the Erez checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. Can this meeting remove the existing obstacles?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, it should remove these obstacles. This meeting should succeed in doing so. Foremost of these obstacles is the way the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is implemented daily in terms of the area of Jericho, the crossing points, and the safe roads. There should also be a new and more effective way to hold Palestinian-Israeli contacts and discuss the Palestinian rights which the Israelis are still withholding, such as the Palestinian rights to taxes and to the VAT [preceding word in English] levied by Israel. However, there is an issue more important than all these issues, which we hope will be settled with Rabin and followed up with [Israeli Police and Energy Minister] Shahal; namely, the issue of Palestinian prisoners and the final closure of their file.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Thank you very much.

Paper Assails Israel's 'Playing' With Negotiating

TA0908183094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The Palestinians and the Settlement's Comprehensiveness"]

[Text] Since the beginning of the peace process at the Madrid Conference and during the successive rounds of negotiations, the Palestinian approach has been that any solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict must be comprehensive and just and on all the negotiating tracks. It should be such as to restore to the Arab nation all its rights and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy stipulating the exchange of land for peace.

Hence, the progress achieved over the past three weeks on the Jordanian-Israeli track, which reached its climax yesterday in the opening of the 'Arava crossing through

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the southern Jordanian-Israeli borders, is in itself regarded as positive by the Palestinian people's sons because it advances the peace process and restores to the brothers in Jordan what they are seeking to regain—land and water.

In this context too, the Palestinian people look forward to the day when fraternal Syria regains its occupied lands in the Golan and when the Lebanese territories occupied by Israel in the south are returned to Lebanon. All this will represent an achievement for the supreme Arab interest and the return of the situation to what it was before the June 1967 war.

However, the policy of playing with the negotiating tracks—whereby Israel marginalizes the talks on all tracks when it focuses its attention on a specific track—not only harms the track which Israel ignores, even if temporarily, but also the entire negotiations. The negative effects of this policy are reflected on the credibility of the peace process and the Israeli inclination toward it in general.

True, the Palestinian-Israeli track has not stopped and meetings have been held in Cairo to work out an agreement over the crossings and the transfer of powers, and moreover a Palestinian-Israeli summit meeting is to be held soon at the Erez checkpoint, but recently there has actually been some sort of a freeze in dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli track. It is extremely important to activate this track so that the Palestinian residents will feel that movement toward peace is continuing and that the results on the ground of this movement have become tangible in their daily lives and routine living conditions.

Daily Issues Clarification on 'Allegation'

TA0908142194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] AL-QUDS would like to clarify that contrary to Da'ud Kuttab's allegation, he is not an employee of the newspaper. Consequently, no Palestinian official has interfered in this matter, which is merely an uproar that he is trying to generate about his relationship with the newspaper, by which he is seeking to aggrandize his position.

AL-QUDS would also like to remind the residents that Da'ud Kuttab did not utter one word of protest, nor draw up any petitions, nor contact foreign and local journalists and news agencies when the Israeli authorities used to adopt measures against AL-QUDS, such as banning its publication and distribution and that of other Palestinian newspapers and magazines.

Fatah Not To Become Political Party

TA0908142094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 5 Aug 94 p 2

[Excerpts] The Higher Committee of Fatah held a meeting August 4 at their central headquarters in Ramallah. The committee discussed several issues, including the Israeli plan to eliminate the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Marwan al-Barghuthi, accountant for the committee, said that the members discussed political and organizational changes and confirmed, "We have reached a decision to keep negotiating with all opposition movements to achieve a national program to face Israeli policies." [passage omitted]

He added that the Higher Committee has formed different groups that included 4,200 members to distribute Fatah membership cards to the people.

He then affirmed that the committee refused to transform the movement into a political party, insisting on remaining a national movement until a Palestinian state is established. "No parties except in the Palestinian state," he said.

Gaza Municipality Head on Protests, Cash Shortage

MM0908123194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Gaza Municipal Council Chairman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Coffers Empty, Opposition's Demonstrations Targeting Us"]

[Excerpts] Gaza, Information Service Center—The Gaza Municipality has over the past few days faced two demonstrations: one staged Saturday [6 August] by Hamas, and the other by the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [PFLP] Sunday.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT spoke to 'Awn al-Shawwa, the new Municipal Council chairman, following the second demonstration and in the light of reports that the municiplity's coffers are empty. Al-Shawwa said: "Demonstrators—mostly children and adolescents—massed in front of my house by the PFLP dispersed an hour ago. They demanded the resignation of the Municipal Council. They said they are going to continue these measures until the council resigns." Al-Shawwa added that "if they want to participate in the council, I have on several occasions announced that there are five vacant seats. And if anyone wants to join the council, we will welcome him." [passage omitted]

Of the previous day's Hamas demonstration in front of the municipality building 'Awn al-Shawwa said: "We cleared the municipality's courtyard completely for those staging the sit-in, and we invited their representative to attend the council meeting in progress at the time, but they refused to participate. We tried to spend our day normally, and I want everyone to know that this council is a service council, not a political council." [passage omitted]

On the money problem al-Shawwa said: "The debts owed to Israeli companies for electricity bills in Gaza city total 14 million shekels for the period prior to the Israel army's evacuation. This is in the knowledge that Gaza and the Strip are still being supplied with electricity by Israeli companies." [passage omitted]

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PLO's UN Representative Returns, Meets 'Arafat

TA0908175994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—Nasir al-Qidwah, the PLO's representative in the United Nations, returned to the homeland's soil yesterday through the Rafah border post and met immediately with President Yasir 'Arafat.

PNF Chairman Arrives in Gaza

TA0908181494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—Jawid al-Ghusayn, chairman of the Palestine National Fund [PNF] and member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived yesterday in Gaza via the Allenby Bridge.

'Arafat Receives Islamic Movement Delegation

TA0908182494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received in Gaza today an Islamic Movement delegation from Israel, headed by Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr-Darwish and Umm-al-Fahm Mayor Shaykh Ra'id Salah. The discussion focused on Palestinian national unity, the method of democratic action, and dialogue among all factions.

Receives Moroccan Envoy

JN0908205094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, has said that President Yasir 'Arafat received a message from Moroccan King His Majesty King Hassan II today.

Ahmed Ben Souda, His Majesty King Hassan II's envoy, conveyed the message when President 'Arafat received him today.

In his message, the Moroccan king expressed warm congratulations to President 'Arafat on his return and assumption of powers of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. The message also includes an invitation from King Hassan II to President 'Arafat to attend the economic summit which will be held in Casablanca in October.

President 'Arafat asked the Moroccan envoy to convey a message to His majesty King Hassan II, in which he expressed his appreciation for this noble gesture toward the Palestinian people. He beseeched Almighty God to enable him and the Moroccan king to pray at the al-Aqsa Mosque in holy Jerusalem.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss relations between Palestine and Morocco, and to review the latest developments.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, PNA secretary general, and Hakam Bal'awi, official in charge of national security, attended the meeting.

It is worth mentioning that the Moroccan king's envoy is the first official international envoy to arrive in the PNA areas since it assumed its responsibilities approximately three months ago.

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Algeria

Haddam Hails U.S. Policy, Criticizes France

BR0908121594 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Aug 94 p 3

[Report on interview with Anwar Haddam, president of the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Salvation Front to the United States and Western Europe, by Alain Frachon in Washington; date not given: "'We Are Not Encountering Problems in the United States Where Our Presence Is Legal'"]

[Text] Washington—The U.S. Government has a "pragmatic" attitude "toward us" and "we work openly here," Anwar Haddam said soberly. In the same breath, Haddam, who calls himself the president of the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to the United States and Western Europe, regretted the fact that the French Government is still stuck in a "dogmatic" rejection of any contact with the Algerian Islamic militants.

"We are not encountering problems in the United States, where our presence is legal," he explained in an interview granted to LE MONDE and TF-1 after Paris had urged the Clinton administration to have the activities of FIS representatives on U.S. soil halted. Sporting a beige double-breasted jacket, a finely trimmed beard, and an open shirt, Mr. Haddam emphasized that his activity in Washington was neither mysterious nor clandestine. He meets with "decisionmakers" in official surroundings, both in the administration and in Congress.

Elected as a deputy for Tlemcen in the first round of the legislative elections held in December 1991, which were then annulled before the second round, Mr. Haddam, an academic who is at ease in both French and English, also observed: "The United States recognizes us as the representatives of an elected party (...). It recognizes the choices made democratically by the Algerians (in 1991—LE MONDE editor's note). As for us, we recognize the laws of this country and comply with them."

The day after the first round, he was officially received at the European Parliament.

Attacks Against Innocent People

As he explains, his mission is to "pave the way for the relations which the Islamic Algerian state will have in the future with the United States and with the countries of Europe. We, too, are pragmatic," he added, mentioning that he also has contacts with the European Commission in Brussels. "In Western Europe, a growing number of officials is beginning to understand that it is important to talk to us," he said, feeling that France was going to find itself increasingly isolated in its rejection of any contact whatsoever with the FIS. The day after the killing of five French citizens, Mr. Haddam was still evasive about violence and terrorism. "We are opposed to attacks against people who are not involved in the repression in Algeria, whether such people are foreigners or Algerians," he said. He supported "the action of (his) Mujahedin brothers," convinced that "they are not behind the attacks against innocent people." Lastly, he "very much doubts the authenticity of the statements made by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA)," which claimed responsibility for the five murders.

Since the authorities have blocked the election path to the FIS, Mr. Haddam commented, "we have the right to defend ourselves with an armed struggle." In Algeria, "it is all the more important to have a dialogue with the authorities in power," he said, and "we are prepared for this dialogue," something which the military leaders still refuse to do. This statement is important: It sticks to the line defined by the Clinton administration, which is urging the Algerian Government to broaden its base by initiating talks with "moderates" in the Islamic movement.

This is also the response which the U.S. leadership gave to [French Interior Minister] Charles Pasqua, who denounced the "naivety" of the United States and certain European governments which think that there are "moderates" within the FIS. While Washington expressed its "understanding" for the sentiments expressed by France following the murder of the five French citizens, the Americans maintain that it is important to continue talking to certain FIS representatives. Any political solution in Algeria, some day, will go via the "party of God," which, as was demonstrated in 1991, represents a good part of the population.

The U.S. Administration, however, is very discreet in defending this line. Asked by LE MONDE, State Department spokesmen refused to comment. In an interview granted to AFP under cover of anonymity, a senior U.S. official felt that Mr. Pasqua's request was inadmissible. He sought to point out that the United States cannot take any action "against people who have entered the United States legally" and who are not carrying out any illegal activity on its territory.

Academic Year To Proceed Despite Threats

LD0908214194 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Algerian Government spokeswoman Leila Aslaoui by Dominique Bromberger; place not given—live]

[Text] [Bromberger] Good evening, Madame Aslaoui.

[Aslaoui] Good evening.

[Bromberger] You have called on the people not to give in to the latest threats by the Armed Islamic Group against the schools and the universities. Do you have the impression that your call will be heeded and that the beginning of the new academic year will be able to proceed as expected in the appropriate conditions?

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[Aslaoui] First, as far as the government is concerned, the beginning of the new academic year will go ahead as usual. The teachers will be asked to be turn up for the beginning of the new academic year, and the pupils also. Obviously, the question of the parents and their wishes remains. Personally, I am convinced that the parents will send their children on the date scheduled for the beginning of the new term, because I belong to a people which does not give in to threats or blackmail, especially when its children are what is at stake. History has adequately demonstrated this, the future will confirm it, and I am convinced that the new academic year will go ahead as normal.

[Bromberger] On the political front: President Zeroual has just issued a call for dialogue to eight parties. Does this call also include the Islamists?

[Aslaoui] The call for dialogue has always been an option open according to the following criteria: respect for the Constitution, respect for the laws of the Republic, and an unequivocal rejection of terrorism. On this basis, I believe that dialogue is open to anyone for whom Algeria is close to their heart.

[Bromberger] Right. You suspended the electoral process over two years ago now. Is the Algerian government ready to restart the electoral process soon?

[Aslaoui] The elections will be organized when political and security stability return. It is not possible to give a date. What is certain is that it is quite clear that the electoral process must resume.

[Bromberger] Yes, but you say: when stability returns—there is no sign that this is the case. On the contrary, with each passing day we see the violence in Algeria increasing. How do you imagine this spiral can be broken?

[Aslaoui] I am convinced that stability will return. First, as there are solutions to the political crisis by means of dialogue. Second is the unrelenting fight against terrorism. In this regard the laws are beginning to be respected again. It is a group, or groups, of armed gangs which have taken up arms against the Republic—it is not the whole population which has risen up—and they are not being supported by the people. You should know this, and I believe it should be said, that often events in our country are greatly exaggerated by certain media. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to tell the Algerian community in France, which has Algeria close to its heart, that our country is on its feet.

[Bromberger] We are well aware that the scale of the repression being conducted by your government—and it is not for us to judge whether it is right or wrong—is increasing daily. We are well aware that each day serious incidents are occurring. What improvement can you hope for in the near future?

[Aslaoui] If anyone speaks to me about repression, I always say that first of all they should talk to me about the human rights so dear to the western democracies, and among the human rights is one which is sacred, which is the right to life. I do not call the fight against terrorism repression. I believe today that even those among the authorities in France, or among the French people, who had not quite made up their minds about things must be aware—following the latest murders of five French people—that democracy is under threat and they must be aware of what would have happened to Algeria if these criminals, and these traitors—because they have taken up arms against the Algerian people—would have done to Algeria if they had got through in the second round of the elections. Day after day they are demonstrating what they are capable of doing.

[Bromberger] France has taken certain precautions, certain security measures. Do you approve of them?

[Aslaoui] It is for the French government alone to weigh the actions of criminals on its territory and to take the appropriate action. It is useful simply to stress the positive development in acting against terrorist networks. It is also an opportunity for those who are still undecided or uncertain, who just a few months ago were talking about the halting of the democratic process and human rights, for those people in France, and in certain circles among the French authorities—not the current government, but in certain circles among the authorities—who barely a year ago were saying, or who perhaps believed that the electoral process should not have been halted, who were talking about the halting of the democratic process, these people should realize today that democracy is under threat, and fundamentalism in Algeria ...

[Bromberger, interrupting] Madame Aslaoui, is it the previous government that you are referring to, the Socialist government, when you mention certain circles?

[Aslaoui] I said certain circles among the authorities, yes. No, it is not the current government, because we are satisfied with its position, which is very clear and very firm.

[Bromberger] On another issue, the United States, Germany, and Great Britain continue to give asylum to representatives of the Islamic Salvation Front—do you condemn the attitude of these countries?

[Aslaoui] Supporting fundamentalism in the short-term or in the long-term represents a danger to those countries that play host to these terrorist networks and allow them to develop and organize.

[Bromberger] Thank you, Madame Aslaoui.

Council Continues Debate on Government Program

LD0908213494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the Transitional National Council continued for the third day. Today's debate focused on the dialogue, youth, the educational system, and other topics. Over to Fouzia Dadi.

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[Begin Dadi recording] The debates, which lasted for more than three hours, focused essentially on the security issue, dialogue, youth, the educational system, justice and human rights, and foreign policy. Some of the speakers asked about the nature of the dialogue so that it would lead to the building of a democratic society and mechanisms for running the lives of citizens. [passage omitted]

The next members of the council who spoke touched on the need for a political solution to the crisis and the need to eliminate bureaucratic methods and rely on a clear policy informed by direct dialogue.

The religious sector was the concern of one of the speakers. [passage omitted]

During the session, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said that he was open to all tangible proposals and would take them into consideration in order to come up with a comprehensive file.

The proceedings are still under way. [end recording]

Parties Welcome Resumption of National Dialogue

LD0908210794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The management committee of MAJD [the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development] said in a statement that it was extremely satisfied with the news that the authorities were to resume the national dialogue with a second round and that the remaining participating sides had responded to the call of duty required by this stage.

The Algerian People's Union welcomed the statement by the head of state, which it considers as providing an opportunity to employ the resources of all Algerians in getting the country out of the crisis.

Egypt

Pakistan Extradites Three Suspected 'Militants'

NC0908191194 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 9 (AFP)—Three Egyptian Islamic fundamentalists living in Pakistan arrived at Cairo airport on Tuesday after their arrest and extradition by Pakistani authorities, security officials said here.

The three suspected militants, who were not named, were said to be members of a group of 13 Arabs who fought against the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan.

They were arrested last week and returned to Egypt in line with an extradition accord signed between the two countries in July.

Cairo accused Moslem militants who sought refuge in Pakistan after fighting in Afghanistan of involvement in attacks in Egypt.

Egyptian Interior Minister General Hasan al-Alfi said Sunday that 35 fundamentalists who had fled Egypt had recently been returned to Egyptian authorities without elaborating which countries had handed them over.

Around 400 people have died in a violent militant campaign to topple Egypt's secular government since March 1992.

Sentry Shot by 'Terrorist' in Suhaj Governorate

NC1008061094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Al Mansur, chief sentry at (al-Habbab) in Markaz Tima in the Upper Egyptian Governorate of Suhaj, was wounded in the jaw and the shoulder when a terrorist shot him tonight.

A responsible Interior Ministry security source said this evening that Mansur, accompanied by Sergeant Mahmud 'Ali 'Umar from the Qina Police Intelligence Office, spotted fugitive terrorist Mu'tasim Muhammad Taha Ahmad, better known as Nash'at, outside his home. Whey they tried to arrest him he fired on them.

The wounded sentry was taken to Asyut University Hospital. Leading security figures and criminal laboratory experts inspected the scene. A search is under way in the area to arrest the fugitive terrorist. The prosecutor has been notified to start an investigation.

Cairo Protests Sudan's Actions Against Officials

NC0908163594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Aug (MENA)—Minister Plenipotentiary Ramadan al-Sharif, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, has delivered two protest notes to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry. The first note concerns the Sudanese authorities' confiscation of the Egyptian Irrigation Department's lodging quarters and their expulsion of Mahmud al-Sayyid, acting personnel director of the Egyptian Irrigation Department in Khartoum. The second note calls for the immediate release of Faruq al-Alfi, personnel director of the Egyptian Irrigation Department in Khartoum.

Speakers Surur, Birri Stress Need for Peace

NC0908055694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur has affirmed that Egypt will continue its efforts to establish a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region because it realizes that the peace process cannot be divided.

Dr. Surur also affirmed in the speech he delivered this evening during a banquet he gave in honor of the Lebanese parliamentary delegation currently visiting

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Egypt headed by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri that Egypt condemns the repeated Israeli attacks on south Lebanon. They constitute a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, the principles of international and humanitarian law, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and Security Council Resolution 425.

He said that while Egypt recognizes the right of people to defend the sovereignty and independence of their territory against any foreign aggression and the legitimacy of Lebanese Resistance activities against the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon based on the principles and standards of international law, it also calls for adherence to the peace option to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict so that our region will end years of destruction and move toward a future with hope, gathering all its potential for the prosperity and comfort of the Arab people.

In his speech Dr. Surur stressed the importance of strengthening Arab solidarity and resolving inter-Arab conflicts through peaceful means within a framework of frankness, open dialogue, and confirmation of the comprehensiveness of Arab national security, especially in view of the political and economic challenges imposed on us by the new world order.

Birri noted the importance of reformulating the concept of a unified Arab common market to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation. Arab economic openness could confront the plans that have been drawn up to impose hegemony over the resources of the region.

Birri called on the international community to implement the articles of Resolution 425 stipulating the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from south Lebanon. He pointed out that unity has been restored to Lebanon and its Army. A president has also been elected to challenge occasional suggestions that there is no president, unity, or Army. [passage omitted]

Columnist Assails Palestinians' Closure of Papers

NC0708153494 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] The Palestinian National Authority has made a drastic mistake in closing down the newspapers AL-BILAD and AL-NAHAR on the pretext that they published criticism of Yasir 'Arafat.

This is not a good start, by all standards, since it leaves the impression that the Authority will not be constructive with regard to democracy. Therefore, it alone will be the loser, no one else.

It should be made clear that the situation now is different from what it was before. There is a big difference between a revolutionary organization and a state.

The first type of organization might have the right to take extraordinary measures. But in our modern times and within the framework of the new world order, if the necessary factors for the existence of a state—one of which is democracy—are not made available, its bases will be shattered. The bridges of confidence between it and its citizens will be endangered. Then, the consequences will be really grave.

What Yasir 'Arafat has done will, in the long run, be a much- debated issue. It is only natural that not all Palestinians support it. Also, no Palestinian faction will raise its weapons against this. This is what became clear when the Declaration of Principles was signed with Israel.

Therefore, it is not strange for the opposition to express their opinion and declare their viewpoints. Perhaps there is something worth noting in what they are saying. This is something that will help in the future. Closing off doors and rooms on ideas and preventing people from freely expressing their opinions are all terrible images of a totalitarian regime, which the Palestinians have never sought. It will not get any sympathy from any party, particularly since the other party, Israel, sings the praises of democracy day and night. These might be superficial or external, but in any case they exist and are being practiced before the eyes and ears of the whole world.

At any rate, I hope that the decision to close the two newspapers was the result of a temporary emotional outburst, the effects of which will quickly be removed. Thus, the restrictions on expression of opinions in Gaza and Jericho will end now that the two districts are on the threshold of autonomy, because if the shadows of dictatorship entrench and strengthen, it will be daily more difficult to destroy them.

Education Minister Defends School Dress Code

NC1008110594 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 4-10 Aug 94 p 2

["Text" of interview with Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din by Amirah Huwaydi in Cairo; date not given—first five paragraphs are AL-AHRAM WEEKLY introduction]

[Text] Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din issued a decree last year banning female students who cover their faces or wear the al-Niqab from entering university grounds. A group of lawyers in Asyut filed a lawsuit and eventually won a court ruling annulling the decree.

This time, he is facing another lawsuit filed by 10 lawyers on behalf of 50 parents contesting Decree 113 on the "unification of school-uniforms". Although the decree must have delighted many parents by banning mini-skirts and tight trousers from schools, it angered others because it made parental approval mandatory before a girl can wear the veil or cover her hair with a scarf.

But at a meeting on Monday with a group of Islamic preachers, Baha'-al-Din indicated that he had softened

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his position somewhat. He said that if a girl wished to wear the veil against the will of her parents, she would be allowed to do so.

Interviewed at his office, Minister Baha-al-Din, a professor of medicine by profession, said the decree was necessary because many schools had been infiltrated by Islamist teachers who force girls to wear the veil against their will. Reports in the Arabic-language press said that as many as 700 teachers involved in student-coercion were reassigned to administrative posts during the last academic year.

The following is the text of the interview:

[Huwaydi] Decree 113 has aroused great controversy and triggered fierce criticism. What is the reason, in your opinion?

[Baha'-al-Din] The decree is no invention of mine. It has existed (in part) in Egypt for several years and it exists in many countries of the world. The main objective is to remove class differences which may be felt by students at a sensitive age. The vast economic differences can create bitter feelings among some students. Moreover, we want to make sure that all students are dressed decently. A third reason is to prevent extremists from infiltrating schools and forcing upon students a so-called Islamic costume, which actually reflects a political—not a religious—identity.

[Huwaydi] Why doesn't the decree simply prohibit the coercion of girl students and punish those who do it?

[Baha'-al-Din] We punish them, but it is well-known that an extremist tide is trying to invade Egypt. We also realised that many people are too afraid to report such actions. Therefore, we were obliged to issue this decree in order to create a system.

[Huwaydi] Would you please explain what the decree provides for exactly?

[Baha'-al-Din] The decree provides that primary stage pupils, aged six to 11, are not to wear the veil. This is based on Islamic shari'ah (which states that only girls who reach the age of puberty may or should wear the veil). As for the preparatory and secondary stages, the decree stipulates that a veiled girl has to present the written approval of her parents. This is to make sure of two things, firstly that the student is wearing the veil willingly and secondly that her parents are aware of it. We simply want to make sure that no one has forced her to wear it. Our goal is to restore authority to the parents.

[Huwaydi] Some Islamic schools have made the veil an integral part of the school uniform. How do they stand in relation to the decree?

[Baha'-al-Din] The veil is prohibited in all schools in the primary stage. Islamic schools may increase the religious dose, but they cannot impose the veil on such young girls. If this was not ordained by God or the Prophet, it is unreasonable that it would be ordained by an ordinary human being.

[Huwaydi] To what extent has the Egyptian school system been infiltrated by the extremist trend?

[Baha'-al-Din] The past stage witnessed an infiltration and it has been proven recently as a result of investigations that there were plots to infiltrate the educational system to achieve political aims. So, we are combating this by means of the decree.

[Huwaydi] Do the present curricula contain subjects that advocate extremist thought?

[Baha'-al-Din] We do not prepare the religious curricula ourselves. The shaykh of Al-Azhar sends us delegates to revise the curricula. The Mufti is a permanent member of the religious committee. Kamal Abu-al-Majd, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq and Ahmad 'Umar Hashim continuously revise them. We accept what the Islamic scholars agree upon.

[Huwaydi] Are there plans to modify or develop the curricula to keep out extremist thought?

[Baha'-al-Din] We are developing and enhancing religious education. We have increased the hours of religious education which will focus more on behaviour and conduct in addition, naturally, to ritual. In the past, we were satisfied with the teaching of ritual only and forgot about the essence of religion. But religion is practice and behaviour and in more than one place in the Koran and the Prophet's teachings there are references to the importance of moral behaviour. Our mistake is that we did not pay much attention to this aspect of religion. The result was that many people now focus on ritual only and ignore other essential aspects of Islam.

[Huwaydi] How do you feel about the lawsuit contesting the decree?

[Baha'-al-Din] I am accused of having a strong latent bitterness against Islam and Muslims and that I am going against Islamic Shari'ah. This is despite the fact that I am, above all else, a Muslim who practices all the basic rules of Islam... [ellipsis as published] They filed a lawsuit against the decree, claiming that I have prohibited the veil, fine. I want to be told how I have prohibited the veil. When I try to shield young girls from oppression, does this mean that I am not a Muslim? This oppression has occurred. It is a fact and not my invention, and we well know it. Our mistake in the past is that we underestimated the effects of this extremist trend, and now we are paying the price. Tell me, how am I then going against the Shari'ah? Did I prohibit anything which God permitted?

[Huwaydi] Your decree is said to be unconstitutional because the constitution states that Islamic Shari'ah is the principal source of legislation.

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[Baha'-al-Din] I respect the constitution and the Islamic religion because I am a Muslim first of all. The decree does not contradict the constitution and the veil is a controversial issue in Shari'ah. Our shaykhs are not in agreement that the wearing of the veil is mandatory. I am not a Shaykh and I have no saying in this connection. But in any case, there is no coercion in religion. If we adhered to the essence of Islam, none of this would have happened.

[Huwaydi] Why did you meet with religious preachers on Monday although their majority opposed your decree?

[Baha'-al-Din] I only wanted to explain to them what I have just told you. Did I do anything wrong, God forbid, that I should go back on? What I did is for the interest of the people.

[Huwaydi] There is a circulating view that whenever the circle of religiousness widens, extremism will flourish. Do you agree?

[Baha'-al-Din] When the scope of true, healthy religion widens, there will be no extremism. But when we take only interest in what is superficial in religion, extremism may occur.

[Huwaydi] How far are the decrees issued by the Ministry of Education based on political considerations?

[Baha'-al-Din] The definition of politics today covers the problems of the people, their education, culture, development and welfare. In this respect, our decrees are based on political considerations.

[Huwaydi] Are they the result of the government's confrontation of extremist groups?

[Baha'-al-Din] No, this is not true.

[Huwaydi] Is it true that the Education Ministry has recruited American educationalists to check the curricula?

[Baha'-al-Din] Those are unfair allegations. They claimed that those American experts were recruited to shrink the Islamic identity and remove Koranic verses and the Prophet's sayings from the religious education curricula. This is not true. Those experts do not interfere in the curricula of religious education, history, national education or Arabic language because they are at the core of our national sovereignty and we cannot allow a foreigner to interfere with them. Their role is confined to the development of education, technicalities. I invited the Mufti and 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq to make sure of this themselves. They spent four hours reviewing the curricula and ascertained that there is no conspiracy against our national or religious identity. Any other talk is merely an allegation aimed at terrorising me. It is an attempt to assassinate the minister, whether physically or politically.

Radio Commentaries Urge U.S. To Pressure Israel

Israel Urged To Show Good Faith

NC0608151794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Will Christopher's Current Tour Succeed in Achieving Progress on the Syrian-Israeli Track?"]

[Excerpts] Despite the noticeable progress achieved recently on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks of negotiations with Israel toward Middle East peace, the road to peace remains thorny and long. Great, continuous efforts are required of all parties concerned with resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and by all peace-loving forces worldwide so that a comprehensive and just peace can be established. This peace should guarantee the legitimate rights of all the region's nations and be based on international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions that stipulate that land be exchanged for peace. [passage omitted]

It is in light of this that we see the importance of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new tour of the region, which he began today. This, his second trip in two weeks, aims primarily at achieving progress on the Syrian-Israeli track and removing the existing impediments caused by lack of confidence between the two sides, which have led both Syria and Israel to go to extremes in demanding guarantees before signing an agreement.

This situation requires Christopher to shuttle between the two countries to bring their views closer together. Besides, on the eve of his secretary of state's travel to the Arab region, U.S. President Clinton was eager to announce that Washington has indications of President Hafiz al-Asad's desire to make peace with Israel. It was an attempt by the U.S. President to back Christopher's current efforts before he begins his difficult mission and to encourage Syria to pursue the peace process. [passage omitted]

Though we and all peace-loving forces worldwide hope that Christopher's current mission will have success with the Syrian-Israeli track, no doubt this will not materialize unless Washington pressures Israel into meeting Syria half way, once Washington is certain of Syria's true desire for peace. Washington also should not impose unfair conditions that are unacceptable to Damascus and that Syria regards as surrendering to Israel, not peace.

In addition, Israel must show good faith in order to gain the Arabs' trust, abandon threats to use force, and halt its recurrent brutal air raids on peaceful civilians in south Lebanon like the raid that was launched two days ago. Some observers regarded that raid as an attempt by Israel to foil Christopher's mission even before it began. Most important of all is the fact that Israel must realize fully that peace must be just and comprehensive, not a

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separate deal with one Arab side or another, as presidents Mubarak and al-Asad have reiterated many times.

Will Israel grasp this opportunity to provide genuine security for its people through a just peace, having failed to achieve that peace by the use of armed force for decades? Will it instead help make Christopher's current task a success? The next few days will answer this question.

Christopher's Tour Viewed

NC0808194594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "What Christopher's Tour Should Achieve"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's return to the Middle East so soon is doubtlessly sufficient proof of the U.S. wish to speed up the peace process. The United States certainly wishes to exploit the momentum created by the signing of the Cairo Declaration between the Palestinians and Israel, followed by the Jordanian-Israeli Washington Declaration that ended those two countries' state of belligerency, to speed up the final and decisive step on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track. [passage omitted]

Although a positive and promising atmosphere prevails in the region in connection with the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho and the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli Washington Declaration, Israel has not yet declared its commitment to the principles on which the peace process was based, specifically a commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the other occupied territories, thus ending the stagnation in the negotiations caused by its intransigence and moving toward the goal of a comprehensive and just regional peace.

Everyone is waiting for an Israeli gesture that would demonstrate that the Israeli Government wants actual peace and is not merely flourishing peace as a slogan.

Israel is now free to tackle the Syrian-Israeli track. Although the decisive development on the Syrian-Israeli track for which everyone is waiting will not come easily, it is certain that the difficulty is not caused by the Syrians but entirely by the Israelis.

The Syrians cling to the land-for-peace principle and UN resolutions. They are only demanding their right to regain the Golan Heights at the very moment that Israel terminates its military and settler presence there. If this happens, there will be no obstacles to a peace agreement.

But Israel wants a phased military withdrawal over a period of eight years. It also wants to establish full political, economic, cultural, and trade relations with Syria during the first phase.

What the Syrians want is their legitimate rights. What the Israelis want contravenes international legality and logic. It is unimaginable that Syria would agree to full relations with Israel prior to a full withdrawal from its territory.

The whole affair will become very easy if Secretary Christopher is firm with the Israeli Government. Everyone is waiting for him and for Washington to make further efforts to persuade Israel that it is necessary to take these steps in order to bolster the peace and achieve the desired objectives.

We are confident that the U.S. secretary of state will achieve his aim and that his new tour will produce positive results. In this way the peace process will attain its goals and all the region's nations will enjoy security, stability, and cooperation for the benefit of their future generations.

Writer Views Controversial Issues at ICPD

NC1008090494 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 9

[Article by Salah-al-Din Hafiz: "The Population Crisis and the Ethics Crisis"]

[Text] We believe no international conference held in the past 30 years has caused such a hue and cry as the Third International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] scheduled to be held in Cairo at the beginning of September. The hue and cry this time is not over the population problem itself but over its interrelationship with religious and moral issues. These issues have been taken up in a basic document prepared by the United Nations after years of hard work, discussion, dissent, and controversy. This 121-page draft document contains several principles, recommendations, and arguments that deal in depth with the issue of population explosion and development. But some paragraphs in the document—and they are few—have provoked many people, especially religious men, who consider them to be in blatant violation of religious rites and educational and ethical values. This should be considered and handled sensibly without exaggeration.

More seriously, this document has placed everyone before a dilemma or an odd choice: Either we adhere to religious principles and moral values or we acknowledge Man's right to develop, progress, and confront population explosion. Many believe there is an irreconcilable contradiction between the two choices. We believe that this analysis and interpretation is overtly arbitrary and deceptive.

To put things in their true perspective, we begin by stating two facts:

1. There is a huge global population explosion. Some 90 percent of this population explosion is in poorer countries. The world's population was 4 billion 20 years ago. It reached 5.7 billion people this year. This figure is expected to jump to 9 billion people in 2025 according to the highest estimates and to 7.9 billion people according

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to the lowest estimates. According to this year's statistics, the world's population is increasing by 92 million people annually. This represents a huge increase in population at a time when sources of food and livelihood are dwindling as evinced in the draft document submitted to the ICPD.

2. The draft document contains particular tendencies that could be construed as conflicting or clashing with religious principles and moral values. This has provoked a sharp controversy, especially at the preparatory conference the United Nations held in New York in April 1994. This conference caused strong Islamic and Christian opposition to the document.

This preparatory conference for the Cairo conference approved over 90 percent of the principles and recommendations of the basic document and disagreed on the remaining 10 percent, leaving it to the Cairo conference to resolve the remaining differences. But the opposition to the document on religious and moral grounds has made the uproar over the disagreement on the 10 percent more forceful and louder than the agreement on the 90 percent of the principles and recommendations.

There is a need to acknowledge a danger threatening mankind with confrontation, overcrowding, and destruction if the world's population continues to increase while food resources continue to dwindle. We must prepare with plans and policies to face this ambiguous and dark future now. There is also a need to acknowledge that there are essential differences over some of these policies and plans because of a feeling that they clash with religious principles and moral values. This contradiction must be eliminated and a showdown averted so that we will not involve the people in the dilemma that exists between adhering to religions, virtues, and morals and the need to regulate life and plan for the future.

While the main document of Cairo's international conference—the third following the Bucharest conference of 1974 and the Mexico City conference of 1984—presents a controversial concept and conflicting interpretations, it is the duty of Cairo, the capital of al-Azhar and the beacon of Islam, not to be content just to host the ICPD, which will be attended by around 20,000 representatives from most countries. Its duty goes further, first, because the host country is Egypt, which has a local, regional, international, Arab, Islamic, and non-Islamic role and second, because it has the ability to present positive initiatives and conciliatory proposals to resolve the contradictions that some people are determined to exaggerate and make controversial, and third, because Egypt is a believer and has been throughout the ages. Today it faces a crisis in a population explosion that is threatening its future. It is working to rationalize it in accordance with divine laws and moral values.

The main draft document to be presented to the ICPD in Cairo contains enlightened ideas, bold interpretations, and approaches worthy of consideration and approval concerning man's right to a fair and extended human development, the development of women's role, child care, and equality of the sexes, and regarding the confrontation of increased poverty, famine, epidemics, and all aspects of backwardness. There is almost if not total support for the above.

But the document contains basically controversial principles that are suspected, as we have said, of conflicting with divine laws, moral principles, and educational values. What is the essence of these principles?

We believe that these are summed up in the following three points:

1. The issue of abortion. There is a view in the world that one of a woman's basic rights is the right to resort to abortion to get rid of a fetus if she wants. There is another view that abortion is an act of murder, which contradicts divine laws. There is a third view that tries to walk a tightrope between the two other conflicting views. It permits abortion for special and possibly difficult reasons, such as in cases in which the pregnant woman's life is in danger.

While the official ICPD document does not candidly sanction abortion and does not officially recognize it as one of the main means of birth control and family planning, some of its clauses do give those who oppose or disagree with it the opportunity to say that if such a document is approved by the countries participating in the ICPD, then they would be in conflict with divine laws and moral values in the East as well as in the West, in Islam as well as in Christianity and Judaism.

2. The second point relates to what the document says about sexual relations, sex education for teenagers, their procreative rights, and the resulting need to warn of the dangers of various diseases caused by repeated sexual intercourse.

The international document devotes its seventh chapter to procreative rights, sexual health, and family planning. This issue has many details that have created several differences because they more or less conflict with religious and moral values and because they concede sexual licentiousness among teenagers by saying, for example, that "pregnant teenage girls need special support from their families and local communities during pregnancy and the early stages of childcare."

This text, while embracing Western ideas of mother and child care, incorporates some negative notions. It contains a frank admission of illegitimate sexual relations and teenage pregnancies. Such practices, tolerated in the West, are frowned upon in this part of the world and the subject of unanimous religious condemnation.

3. The third controversial point is about family planning, or birth control, as a basic means of curbing the population explosion, the continuation of which threatens humanity and slows down economic growth rates, at least from the European and U.S. point of view.

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Western and Eastern ideas of family planning, or birth control, are at odds. This clash is clear in the above document. There are two conflicting attitudes in today's world:

One is that population explosion is an obstacle to development and a threat to humanity. Overpopulation, given limited food resources, is a cause of tension, conflict, famine, epidemic, and disaster. The highly volatile situation in poor and developing countries supports this view. Africa is a case in point.

The second attitude blames all the ailments of today's world on corruption, promiscuity, materialism, religious and ethical decay, sexual freedom, the spread of perverted values, and the demise of religion. Many Western societies that have achieved material prosperity are going through a spiritual crisis. America is a case in point. Crime costs it $600 billion a year. A recent public opinion poll shows that 73 percent of Americans are deeply worried about the current intensity of ethical and religious decay, three decades after the wave of social permissiveness began.

Apart from these two attitudes, there are several important facts that we should keep in mind. In countries such as Egypt, where the population explosion, if left unchecked, can threaten the future of humanity, where mandatory or illegal birth control such as abortion is religiously and ethically unacceptable, where permissiveness, particularly sexual permissiveness, and disease, such as AIDS, are on the rise, where the three God-given religions, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, militate against all this, and where principles, values, and concepts are different from those in other societies and civilizations, things must be handled with caution and delicacy. If not, things will keep going from bad to worse.

We welcome any likely positive efforts and humanitarian initiatives by the ICPD. It doubtlessly shoulders a heavy burden and represents a noble human endeavor by seeking a better future for humanity and trying to avert the prospect of an overcrowded, confrontational world full of poverty, famine, war, and calamities. It seeks to use scientific planning while showing respect for values and religions.

Whatever recommendations the ICPD makes, the issue will remain a profound, complex one. It will certainly remain an object of discussion for decades, perhaps centuries, to come.

The issue needs a deep and penetrating social examination of the factors of progress and evolution and the causes of the decay and backwardness of societies. This is an outlook that seeks to restore moderation and balance to the major factors influencing human life in every age and place including family, school, faith, the media, and culture. It attempts to assess the role of each of these influences in educating the human being and implanting values and ethics in him.

Also to be examined is society's collective responsibility involving its various civic and religious organizations, political parties, popular associations, and professional and trade unions. The role of these groups in bringing up and guiding new generations must be viewed.

A new outlook on the woman must be encouraged so that she might regain her worthiness and social role and free herself of the restrictions—found in all societies—that keep her illiterate or socially and economically servile. The aim is to enable her to rebuild the family and carry out her primary educational role armed with a new concept. Heavenly rules and manmade laws agree on this.

Previously, war, like famine and epidemics, were the most important methods of maintaining a check on the population. They are no longer justifiable methods and have been replaced with modern scientific means, such as family planning. These scientific methods continue to face strong opposition on the grounds that they are religiously and ethically illegitimate.

But maintaining a check on the population and preserving world stability, development, and prosperity regarding an unregulated population explosion remains a vital issue. It is also an international moral responsibility to check the spread of poverty and famine and the erosion of the food resources that are necessary to maintain a viable balanced population and preserve Man himself.

Humanity must mobilize its tremendous scientific and technological prowess to preserve the human, not to make it miserable or extinct. There is no need to provoke contradictions or invent new crises.

Libya

Opposition Denounces Return of Aouzou Strip

MM0908120194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Grouping: Purpose of al-Qadhdhafi's Concessions Is To Preserve His Regime"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Libyan opposition's National Democratic Grouping [NDG] has emphasized that Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "is continuing his policy of concessions in violation of national rights which he has followed since seizing power in 1969, the aim being to preserve his regime and maintain full control of political and economic life in Libya regardless of the price paid to reach that objective."

In a statement, the NDG said that al-Qadhdhafi, "in his attempts to end the Lockerbie crisis nightmare, which has turned him into a frightened mouse and threatened the stability of his regime and his continuation in power...has forfeited the Aouzou strip to gain the sympathy

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of the United States and France, which means that the regime has lost the legitimacy to continue to rule Libya and that it cannot claim to be defending Libya and its interests."

The NDG reaffirmed its rejection "of the concessions made by al-Qadhdhafi, who has lost his legitimacy, which are part of the concessions which have been made a condition for allowing him to continue to play havoc with the Libyan people's resources." It stressed that "our rejection of the ceding of our national rights in no way means undermining the special relationship between the Libyan and Chadian people, built throughout a long history of neighborhood, joint struggle, common culture, and interlinked social relations. The NDG condemned al-Qadhdhafi's rash adventures and foolish policy toward the fraternal Chadian people at the time."

The NDG pointed out that it considered "any agreement or ceding of even a single foot of Libyan territory as invalid, and it is certain that, when they triumph over their executioners, the Libyan people will use all their resources to regain what was taken."

New Sudanese Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD0908191594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity [not further identified] received the credentials of brother Hashim al-Sayid Muhammad, the new ambassador from the Republic of Sudan, in the Great Jamahiriyah today.

The ambassador presented his credentials. He conveyed the greetings and appreciation of President 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir, president of the brotherly Republic of Sudan, to the brother leader of the revolution and to the Libyan Arab people. He said he was happy that the presentation of his credentials coincided with the imminent 25th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution. [passage omitted]

The ambassador added: We in Sudan believe in Arab unity as a predestined principle which must be attained swiftly because the situation of our Arab nation, the dangers surrounding it, and the current process of capitulation. The imperialist colonialist conspiracy in the region makes it essential for us to hasten in achieving unity. The Sudanese ambassador condemned the unjust sanctions imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah by the Western states and stressed that the only reason for these sanctions was that the Great Jamahiriyah refused to submit to the forces of evil and tyranny and refused to deal with the forces of defeatism. [passage omitted]

The secretary of the Committee for Unity added that Sudan is now facing imperialist plots that are being hatched against the Arab nation in order to divide it, gain control of its destiny and options, dominate its fate, and plunder its wealth. He emphasized that through its firm nationalist stances the Great Jamahiriyah rejected any interference in the internal affairs of Sudan and denounced the attempts to fragment its unity to which Sudan is exposed.

At the end of his address the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity said that the recognition of the Israeli enemy, which is currently taking place in the Arab nation, is a crime against the Arab nation and its sacrifices. He stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah could not accept the renunciation of any inch of Arab territory and that it rejected any agreement that gives up Arab territory. At the same time he emphasized that the Arab people will not forgive any renunciation of its rights and its sacrifices.

Lockerbie Suspects' Lawyer Condemns Sanctions

LD0908183994 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Alastair Duff, the Scottish defense lawyer for the suspects in the so-called Lockerbie crisis, has expressed his deep resentment at the extension of the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by the so-called Security Council.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent in London he stressed the innocence of the two Libyan nationals suspected of involvement in the so-called Lockerbie crisis. This would be proved in the court, he explained.

Sudan

Finance Minister Meets Romanian Delegation

EA0808213394 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Finance Minister Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad today met the visiting Romanian economic delegation at the conference hall of the Ministry of Economic Planning. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Sudan's debts toward Romania. Also to be discussed are the possibilities of activating bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The delegation will hold a number meetings with officials in the country and is set to visit a number of places and projects. The visit will end on 20 August.

First Vice President Meets Libyan Delegation Head

EA0908205094 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Major General Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, has stressed Sudan's support for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in its just cause and backing for the Libyan people's demand for the lifting of the blockade unjustly imposed on it. During his meeting today with Sulayman al-Shukhumi, head of the Libyan delegation participating in the Sudanese-Libyan ministerial joint committee, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr called on Arab states to break the blockade imposed on Libya.

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He also called for the activation of the integration process in the interests of both countries to reactivate the pan-Arab unity project.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, the secretary general of the International Peoples' Friendship Council, has told SUNA that the course of the two countries' integration plan, current international circumstances facing the region, and bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. His excellency pointed out that there are four committees in session in the context of the Sudan-Libyan integration, namely, the political committee, the trade and finance committee, the integration review committee, and the investment committee. Al-Shukhumi praised the distinguished relations between the two countries and the Sudanese people's support for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Link to N. African Fundamentalists Denied

MM1008084094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Kamal Hamid: "Khartoum: Al-Turabi European Tour To Improve Sudan's Relations"]

[Text] Khartoum—AL-HAYAH has learned that Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress [AIPC], will soon embark on a European tour during which he will visit Britain, Germany, and the Netherlands with the aim of bridging the views of the European governments and Sudan and trying to explain the dimensions of the Islamic movement's concept in the Islamic world.

Sources close to the AIPC have told AL-HAYAH that al-Turabi had dialogues with Spanish and French officials during a visit he paid to Madrid and Paris last week. They said that al-Turabi "briefed officials in these two states on the situation in Sudan, the war in the south, and the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) to establish peace in Sudan."

The sources said that al-Turabi expressed the wish of the Sudanese Government, supported by the National Islamic Front [NIF], to "reactivate trade exchange, cultural cooperation, and diplomatic coordination with Madrid and Paris."

The sources revealed that, in his talks with Spanish and French officials, al-Turabi denied "any connection between what the Islamists are doing in Algeria, in terms of attacks on Europeans, and the AIPC or the NIF in Sudan."

They added that al-Turabi said that there is no link between Islamic fundamentalism in northern Africa, especially Algeria and Tunisia, and Sudan, and that the leaders of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the leaders of the Ennahda Movement, which is banned in Tunisia, "reside in European countries, not in Sudan."

In press statements he made yesterday upon his return from Paris, al-Turabi said "I discussed the Sudanese issue and Islam with French officials. These consultations corrected the picture and achieved good, unexpected results." Yesterday, al-Turabi met with his senior aides to brief them on his talks with Spanish and French officials on the situation in Sudan and the Islamic-European dialogue.

In another development, informed sources in Khartoum have reported the disappearance of a prominent NIF leader on his arrival at Cairo airport last week.

The sources said that Rabi' Hasan Ahmad, general manager of the Islamic Insurance Company, which is one of the companies of the Faysal Islamic Bank, went to Cairo on business and his company had sent cables to several quarters in Cairo so that he could be met at the airport, "and the hosts did indeed arrive there to receive him and they waited a long time in the arrivals lounge, for three hours after the aircraft's arrival, but there was no sign of him. They contacted the airport officials but could get no explanation about Ahmad." They also said that those who went to the airport to meet the Sudanese official sent a cable to the company's headquarters in Khartoum notifying it of his disappearance. As of yesterday, there was no information about the fate of that official. It should be recalled that Rabi' Hasan Ahmad once held the post of general manager of the Faysal Islamic Bank. He was chairman of Khartoum University students federation at the time of the October popular revolution which toppled the regime of Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Abbud in 1964. He got a masters degree in law from a U.S. university in the seventies.

Government Condemns Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

EA0908110094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], has condemned the brutal Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory. He stressed that this aggression was part of the Zionist plan to pressure Lebanon and coerce it into joining the reconciliation process currently under way in the region, which is tailored to the specifications of the enemies of the Arab nation.

Mr. Khalifah said the APU strongly condemned any barbaric action aimed at subjugating people and confirmed its support and backing for Lebanon in confronting plots which target its unity and existence.

Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah announced that the current session of the APU had reached a decision to activate Arab action in support of Lebanon. He said the union rejected the forcible extension of the conciliation process and the resolution of the region's problems while Israeli terrorism in the occupied territories continued. He said that Israeli aggression would not prevent the leaders of the Lebanese resistance from performing their patriotic role. Mr. Khalifah called on Arab parliaments to examine their roles at this critical phase in the union's course.

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Kuwait

Military Cooperation Accord Signed With Russia

LD0908130794 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] The State of Kuwait and the friendly Russian Federation today signed an agreement on joint military cooperation. Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah and Russia'a ambassador to Kuwait Petr Stegniy signed the agreement.

The signing ceremony was attended by Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, chief of the Army General Staff, Humud al-'Utaybi, undersecretary at the Defense Ministry, and Jam'an al-Tuwaym, assistant undersecretary at the Defense Ministry for financial affairs, as well as representatives from the Finance Ministry and the delegation accompanying the Russian ambassador.

Russian Official Confirms Weapons Sale

LD0908112994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Moscow, 9 Aug (KUNA)—A Russian military official here today confirmed that Kuwait and Russia have agreed a deal to supply the Kuwaiti land forces with Russian weapons and military equipment. Valeriy Bogrebenkov, an official in the Public Relations Department of Rosvooruzheniye, the Russian State Weapons Establishment, told KUNA that the deal includes BMP-3 APCs, and Smerch rapid launch rocket systems. The official refused to give more details regarding the value of the deal and the dates of its implementation. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Discusses Arms Procurement

NC0908125894 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 5 Aug 94 pp 64-65

[Interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah by AL-MUSAWWAR correspondent Sana' al-Sa'id in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] A recent report says that the largest U.S. base in the Middle East was completed at the end of June and that among its strategic objectives is directing rapid military operations against Iran and Iraq.

[Al-Sabah] This is untrue. There are no bases in Kuwait for any specific power but there are security arrangements that Kuwait made through agreements with the United States, Britain, France, and Russia. Under these security agreements signed between Kuwait and friends there is a brigade prepared to receive soldiers and their equipment during exercises. Everyone knows that such exercises exist according to a plan and are carried out throughout the year at specific times set by the chiefs of staff.

[Al-Sa'id] I understand that you will sign an agreement with the PRC in October to complete the chain of security agreements with the permanent members of the Security Council. What is the significance and importance of this agreement?

[Al-Sabah] I have not set a date for signing this agreement. Letters have been exchanged between Kuwait and the PRC to work out the agreement, which will be similar to agreements signed with the permanent members of the Security Council—the United States, Britain, France, and Russia.

[Al-Sa'id] When Kuwait decided to conclude an arms deal with Russia, particular parties in the Kuwaiti National Assembly cast doubt on this deal. Why?

[Al-Sabah] Some people cast doubt on everything relating to arms deals, with Russia or otherwise, particularly because there are agents and consultants. The Kuwaiti Government has decided to end this situation by concluding arms deals through governments. There will be no doubt-casting from now on as the deals will be concluded between governments.

[Al-Sa'id] This means that an arms deal will be concluded with Russia?

[Al-Sabah] Yes. And we will work out an agreement to purchase arms from Russia. Other agreements on arms deals will be concluded with other countries.

[Al-Sa'id] What types of weapon will Kuwait purchase?

[Al-Sabah) The types will be specified in accordance with the chief of staff and ad hoc committees.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people say that 80 percent of the arms deals you obtain are not needed by Kuwait and that they were concluded on the basis of a political decision.

[Al-Sabah] I have heard this but it is untrue, because Kuwait is rebuilding its army and all that was destroyed by the Iraqi aggression. If we consider that the army was the largest sector to be destroyed, we must rebuild it through the purchase of advanced weapons to cope with the requirements of the four branches in the Kuwaiti Army.

[Al-Sa'id] Why has the Damascus Declaration, particularly its security part, not been implemented? Is it because some realities preclude its implementation?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that the Damascus Declaration, particularly its military part, is being implemented. The fraternal Egyptian Armed Forces are helping to rebuild the Kuwaiti Army through exercises and training. Joint military maneuvers will be conducted.

[Al-Sa'id] When will these maneuvers be conducted?

[Al-Sabah] This is a military affair that I cannot answer now. All that I can say is that joint exercises and maneuvers will be conducted between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti forces. There is specialized military cooperation between Kuwait and Egypt. We seek to benefit from Egyptian expertise.

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[Al-Sa'id] What about the possibility of buying weapons from Egypt?

[Al-Sabah] Before the ruthless aggression against Kuwait we had "Fahd" armored vehicles, which were made in dear Egypt. From an economic perspective we try as much as we can to obtain the best weapons needed for our brothers in the army, particularly the ground forces. Accordingly, we are now working on a plan that will focus on buying a missile system. I hear that Egypt could contribute to building this missile in conjunction with another country, which I will not name, so that in the end we could have a missile system. Our brothers in Egypt know about this issue.

[Al-Sa'id] Why has no agreement been reached on future security arrangements in the region, bearing in mind that a lack of defense cooperation in the Gulf leaves a vacuum? The West seems to be the only guarantor for Gulf security today.

[Al-Sabah] We cannot forget the lesson we learned from the brutal Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. All the Gulf states have benefited from the same lesson, whether in terms of the quality or type of weapons they need or training. But there is full and comprehensive agreement among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers. There is also the Peninsula Shield Force in which all GCC member states participate.

[Al-Sa'id] But the Peninsula Shield Force will not constitute a deterrent force, will it?

[Al-Sabah] The Peninsula Shield Force is a beginning and a symbol. It is very important for it to exist as a force that can offer benefits, develop, and get stronger with more troops and equipment to become a real deterrent force. Exercises are held more than once a year in which troops from the Peninsula Shield Force join their colleagues in the Kuwaiti Army or in other GCC member states.

[Al-Sa'id] But Sultan Qabus' call to establish a common Gulf force has stumbled, implicitly showing the failure of the Peninsula Shield Force as a real deterrent force, has it not?

[Al-Sabah] His Majesty Sultan Qabus' proposal still stands and is being studied. Perhaps it has not come into effect for technical reasons. The reasons are now the subject of studies by technical officers from all the GCC member states. The Peninsula Shield represents a core for common defense and for a Gulf army, if established. The Peninsula Shield constitutes the nucleus or the basic structure of the Gulf Army to which Sultan Qabus looks forward.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you accept an Iranian role in the region's security despite the doubts cast on it and its role in the region?

[Al-Sabah] Iran is a neighboring Islamic state overlooking the Gulf. We thank God that our relations with Iran are based on mutual respect for each others' laws and constitutions.

[Al-Sa'id] But could your bilateral cooperation reach the point of military cooperation, involving, for instance, joint exercises?

[Al-Sabah] We are now studying a request to hold joint exercises with Iran. We must convey this study to our brothers in the GCC.

[Al-Sa'id] It is a paradox that you publicly express your fears concerning Iraq, which has shrunk militarily, and publicly court Iran while fearing it in secret. Is your fear of Iraq justified?

[Al-Sabah] Yes, because Iraq still has eight divisions that constitute a striking force. The Iraqi Army is now rebuilding itself. It is true that all of us, including our brothers in the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and the National Guard, are prepared and fully alert to confront any emergency. But caution is needed and we hope we will not be threatened by any danger.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the concept of comprehensive security in the Arab homeland, especially regarding its economic dimension?

[Al-Sabah] Undoubtedly every Arab wants to feel assured that all the Arab states are safe and stable. What happens to Egypt, for instance, will hurt Kuwait, and the brothers in Egypt care about Kuwait's security. I am certain that President Husni Mubarak and the brother officials always place the security of Egypt and Arab security at the forefront of their work and priorities. Thus we believe that Arab security must be intensified. When I was interior minister I looked forward to having a comprehensive Arab security. This is what Kuwait has always wanted. I believe that every country, be it our sisters in the Gulf or in the great Arab homeland, is interested in a unified Arab security concept so that things may stabilize. Without unified Arab security we will be unable to move in the other fields, particularly the economic field. Thus Arab security must be strong and unified. Only then could there be a strong economy and prosperity for all the region's peoples, which is what I hope for.

[Al-Sa'id] But what about improving Arab security and the prospects for security independence in the foreseeable future?

[Al-Sabah] We still have a long way to go and a long time to spend to get on a par with the developed states as far as advanced technology is concerned. But we have the people, the brains, and the money. All we need is the will, which will come, God willing, and through which we will improve.

[Al-Sa'id] Egypt looks forward to establishing a structure of military industrialization with financial contributions from the Gulf states. What do you think?

[Al-Sabah] As I have said, all we need is the will. We have the resources, the capabilities, and the money. There are Arab states, like Egypt, that possess the brains from which we could benefit in establishing joint ventures. Today you must rely on your brother and we look

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forward to our brothers helping us with their capabilities. We will help them in several ways.

New Iranian Ambassador Former Velayati Aide

94P50182A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Faris al-Salman]

[Text] Kuwait—The charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait, Abol Qasem Sha'sha'i, has affirmed that the new Iranian ambassador will present his accreditation at the beginning of October.

Sha'sha'i said to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the new ambassador, 'Ali San'ati, has been working in the post of deputy undersecretary for financial and administrative affairs to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He confirmed that he had occupied this post for eight years. Sha'sha'i said that 'Ali San'ati had not previously represented the Iranian Foreign Ministry as an ambassador abroad.

Sha'sha'i added, "The previous ambassador to Kuwait, Hosni Sadeqi, will take the post of director of administration in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

It is known that this directorate has two parts: the first directorate, which includes "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Yemen" and the second directorate, which includes "Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Oman."

The former Iranian ambassador, Hosni Sadeqi, laid a foundation with the Kuwaiti Government for various projects between the two countries, among them establishing a security protocol for the coast guard between them. However, the details of this protocol are still incomplete, as well as [the protocols] on the marine cable and some economic projects, including Iranian expositions in Kuwait.

Foreign Wives To Get Five-Year Passports

LD0908142894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1237 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 Aug (KUNA)—At its ordinary session today the National Assembly agreed to grant non-Kuwaiti women married to Kuwaitis five-year official passports. [passage omitted]

The clause which is to be added according to the proposal stipulates the following: A non-Kuwaiti woman married to a Kuwaiti will be granted a separate passport valid for five years and renewable at the request of the woman on condition that the husband agrees, and on condition that the woman has been married to the Kuwaiti for five years and that she has not been convicted of a crime against the country's security or against her own honor.

Saudi Arabia

Chinese Nuclear Weapons Cooperation Revealed

MM0808131094 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 7 Aug 94 p 17

[Report by Marie Colvin and Peter Sawyer: "Riyadh Bargained With Chinese for Nuclear Reactors"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia tried to buy experimental nuclear reactors from China as part of a secret 20-year programme to become a nuclear power, according to documents obtained by THE SUNDAY TIMES.

Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Muhammad, the nephew of King Fahd, travelled to China, toured nuclear facilities an opened negotiations on the purchase of a miniature neutron source reactor in 1989 according to the documents. Muhammad Khilaywi, a Saudi diplomat seeking asylum in the United States, claims the kingdom bought at least two mini-reactors.

The kingdom hoped, according to an American middle man to "start small" an eventually to persuade the Chinese to sell the kingdom larger nuclear reactors for weapons programme.

Khilaywi, the former second in command at the Saud United Nations mission in New York, has already detailed the extent of Saudi-Iraq co-operation in obtaining nuclear weapons.

In 1985 Saudi Arabia began funding Iraq's nuclear weapons programme in a $5 billion deal under which Baghdad would give the kingdom nuclear weapons once it had developed them.

According to the new documents, however, the Saudis appeared by 1989 to have broadened their efforts to include opening their own research facilities. On January 10, 1989, a letter from the Chinese Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation in Peking says: "We can do business in nuclear fields."

Saudi Arabia signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 1988 and under that agreement must declare any nuclear capability and allow inspection by international experts.

On his return from Peking the prince described his trip to China to the dean of research at the King Khalid University in Riyadh and sent him documents on the reactor he aimed to buy: "It is my pleasure to offer you documents about this very important project which is very important to us (the kingdom) ... I am certain you share with me my opinion that the kingdom needs such a programme."

A source in Washington last week revealed further evidence of the extent of Saudi-Iraqi co-operation in the nuclear field. He said Nabil Sa'id, the Iraqi defence attache in Washington, and Brigadier-General 'Abd-al-Rahman Banyan, the Saudi defence attache, often

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travelled together to Westinghouse, Pittsburgh, for discussions with the American executives on the company's nuclear reactor programme.

Michael Wildes, Khilaywi's lawyer in his application for political asylum, said Khilaywi had now separated himself from the 13,000 documents he took into exile with him because of a Saudi kidnap threat against him. Wildes said last week that Khilaywi had made arrangements to have the documents published should anything happen to him or his family.

UAE President Arrives in Jeddah

LD0908181994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1636 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan AL Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived late this afternoon in Jeddah on a visit to the Kingdom.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, welcomed him at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport. [passage omitted]

Aid Committee Gives 3.2 Million Riyals to PLO

MM1008102694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "3.2 Million Riyals for PLO From Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region and chairman of the Popular Committee for Helping Palestine's Mujahidin [PCHPM], has ordered the transfer to the PLO of 3,177,721 riyals from the committee's revenues.

This was stated by 'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, director general of the offices of the PCHPM in Saudi Arabia. He said: This sum represents the first payment from the PCHPM's revenues to the PLO in the current Hegira year, 1415, as the PCHPM's revenues are transferred to the PLO in six payments every year.

Jamus praised Saudi Arabia's firm position under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in terms of supporting and bolstering the Palestinian people—morally and materially—in their jihad at all Arab and international levels to enable them to recover their usurped rights, first and foremost their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to establish their own independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Yemen

Chairman of Administrative Committee Appointed

JN1008055794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The Presidential Council yesterday issued Decree No. 15 of 1994 appointing Judge 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi as chairman of the Higher Committee for Reconsidering the Administrative Divisions of the Republic.

YSP Members Begin Meetings in Damascus

JN0908184494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[Text] Some Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] members held an expanded meeting in Damascus today under YSP Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad, and in the presence of 10 Political Bureau members.

The conferees will discuss four major working papers dealing with the Yemeni reconciliation issue, the YSP's political program, its future action plan, and the issue of the displaced.

In addition to achieving Yemeni reconciliation, these meetings are aimed at implementing the pledge and accord document which was signed in Amman in February.

Sources at the meeting said that another meeting will be held in the presence of 25 YSP Central Committee members, some of whom are wanted by the Sanaa government, and whose names are on a list which includes the names of 16 YSP members.

These meetings will also be attended by persons who are still working in the Sanaa government, who will present President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's views and opinions about achieving the Yemeni reconciliation.

Ba'th Party Redistributes Responsibilities

MM0908123594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Ba'th Party in Yemen Announces Redistribution of Responsibilities"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has received a statement signed by the "Regional Command of Yemen's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party" on its regular meeting held 15 July, announcing the redistribution of party responsibilities. The statement said:

"The Regional Command of Yemen's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at its regular meeting on 15 July 1994, decided to resdistribute the duties and responsibilities of its members, to relieve Comrade Qasim Salam of the post of secretary and Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahyub of the post of deputy secretary, and to assign new responsibilities to them in accordance with the party's bylaws which state that the Regional Command should elect a secretary and a deputy secretary from its members. It also decided to promote some alternate members to full members with duties assigned to them. It also decided to apply the principle of collective work and leadership and decided that responsibility means commitment and willingness to make sacrifices for the party and its great revolutionary principles. It also decided to change its official seal.

"The distribution of party duties and responsibilities of the Regional Command members is as follows:

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"1. Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, in charge of the capital-al-Hudaydah-Wasabin sector.
"2. 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Kabsi, in charge of the Organizational Bureau and the new [al-hadith] sector.
"3. Dr. Qasim Salam Sa'id, in charge of the Cultural Bureau.
"4. Dirham Abu-Luhum, in charge of central sector and the Central Financial Bureau.
"5. 'Abd-al-Wahid Hawwash, in charge of the Popular Organizations Bureau.
"6. Yahya al-'Udhri, in charge of the northern sector.
"7. 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahyub, in charge of the southern sector and of the National Relations Bureau.
"8. Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kabsi, in charge of the eastern sector and the Parliamentary Bureau.
"9. 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Jarmuzi, in charge of the Organizational Control and Follow-up Bureau and deputy to the official in charge of the Cultural Bureau.
"10. Mudhish 'Ali Naji, deputy to the official in charge of the northern sector.
"11. Salih 'Abdallah al-Khayshani, deputy to the official in charge of the new sector.
"12. Hasan Jarallah, deputy to the official in charge of the new sector.
"13. Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu-Luhum, Regional Command member.

"The Regional Command of the Yemeni Arab Socialist Ba'th Party urges all parties, political organizations, popular organizations, the media, and all the state's institutions to deal with our party and its leadership on that basis."

Opposition Member on Situation in South

AU0908113794 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8 Aug 94 p 7

[Interview with Ahmad Sa'id, member of the opposition Rabatah Party, by Wolfgang Rex in Bonn; date not given: "In Aden 5,000 People Are Missing"]

[Text] [Rex] What is the situation in Southern Yemen now, after the North's military victory?

[Sa'id] The Islamic fanatics from the North have assumed power throughout the South. However, there is still no water supply in Aden. According to Red Cross reports, cholera broke out at the beginning of July; since then, at least 12 people have died of this dangerous illness. Also, food is rationed.

[Rex] Will the Southern Yemenis resign themselves to the new situation?

[Sa'id] Almost 30,000 people have fled to the borders, especially to the border with Saudi Arabia and Oman. There are currently about 13,000 refugees at the Omani border. In addition, there are 5,000 soldiers who escaped on battleships. A total of 7,000 people have fled to the border with Saudi Arabia, and 3,000 to Dubai and Abu Dhabi. About 2,000 have fled to Djibouti; 100 people flee by boat every day.

However, the governments of these states do not want them to stay. They exert pressure on the refugees. But where are they supposed to go? Aden is closed, no one can leave, noone can enter. Since the capitulation, more than 5,000 people are missing in the city. Therefore, the refugees are afraid to return.

[Rex] Because they fear persecution there?

[Sa'id] Yes.

[Rex] What are the political leaders of the South, now in exile, doing?

[Sa'id] Former Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who fled to Oman, has asked the international relief and human rights organizations for help for the refugees. But the public, in particular in the Western world, is ignoring the problem. Therefore, human rights groups particularly should watch developments in Southern Yemen very attentively, because people are in danger there. Refugees are dying at the borders due to lack of medical care.

[Rex] In the beginning southern Yemen was supported by Saudi Arabia and Oman...

[Sa'id] Yes, the governments of Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates supported the South—during the war and also before. The tenor of the policy in the South was not independence from the North but equality and justice between North and South. The socialists in Southern Yemen had implemented unification, not the North. They accepted the president to come from the North and for the capital city to be in the North. However, the Southern Yemeni leaders noticed that the military from the North tried to divide the people—into A, B, and C class citizens. The people in the South, who have lived under different conditions for 150 years, were supposed to give up their identity.

[Rex] How do the political leaders of Southern Yemen envisage a solution? Will they continue to negotiate with the North or will they just wait?

[Sa'id] There are two UN Security Council resolutions on Yemen. They say that the political problems must be solved by negotiations and in peace. After the end of the war, the delegations from the North and the South first met in New York and then in Geneva under the aegis of the United Nations at the beginning of July. But nothing much was achieved.

The North wants to gain time to make the people in Southern Yemen accept the new course. The leaders of Southern Yemen have announced resistance to that. The only sensible path is the implementation of the UN resolutions.

Southern Armed Resistance Plan Published

MM0908145094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Publishes Text of Southern Resistance Draft Bylaws; Inclination To Form Military Corps in Governorates"]

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[Text] Djibouti—South Yemen political sources in Djibouti have revealed a plan for the policy of armed resistance against northern forces in southern and eastern governorates under the title "Draft Laws of the Southern Corps for Liberation [mashru' nizam al-fayaliq al-janubiyah li al-tahrir] (FJR) [abbreviation reads "fajr," Arabic for dawn]. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the full text of it. The sources stressed that the parties, organizations, and forces participating in the southern alliance participated in drawing it up, and that it will be discussed soon in preparation for putting it into practice.

Well-informed sources pointed out that the current situation in southern Yemen will not last long because of the continued operations of repression and harassment carried out by security services, northern forces, and Reform Grouping militias in the area. They also said that the Liberation Corps Bylaws will be the general framework for southern resistance operations. Following is the text:

Draft Bylaws of the Southern Corps for Liberation (FJR)

Chapter I: Names, Definitions, and Aims

Article 1: This plan is called the "Bylaws of the Southern Corps for Liberation (FJR)."

Article 2: The following phrases and terms refer to the meanings stated, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- Republic: the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY].
- Governorate: any of the DRY's governorates.
- Directorate: any of the DRY's directorates.
- The occupied areas: any area of the DRY in which there are invaders belonging to the gang of Al al-Ahmar [family of al-Ahmar] and their supporters.
- Corps: a military formation comprised of combat military cells and supporting social cells.
- Commander in chief: commander of the Southern Corps.
- Commander: commander of the corps of a governorate, directorate, or area.
- Council: the general council of the Southern Corps for Liberation.
- General staff: the general staff of the Southern Corps.
- Head of cell: head of a military cell or the supporting social cell.
- Member: One who belongs to a cell of the Southern Corps for Liberation.
- Supporting member: member belonging to a social cell supporting the Southern Corps for Liberation.
- FJR: the abbreviation for the Southern Corps for Liberation.

Article 3: Due to the situation resulting from the brutal aggression by the Al al-Ahmar gang, which invaded the DRY's territory—the aggression which resulted in shedding the blood of innocent children, women, and the elderly and in rape, looting, and violating what is forbidden by God and his messenger; and in view of what is dictated by conscience and the dignity of the people of the south, the Southern Corps for Liberation (FJR) is set up. The aim of its establishment is as follows:

- 1. To liberate the occupied area of the DRY from the invaders and their supporters.
- 2. To recover the rights and property plundered by the invaders.
- 3. To protect citizens by all means and methods from direct or indirect practices carried out by the invaders and their supporters.
- 4. To inflict field and swift punishment on murderers, rapists, and property plunderers in the occupied areas of the republic.
- 5. To organize citizens and close their ranks to secure the requirements for steadfastness in the face of the invaders in the occupied areas.
- 6. To bring to trial war criminals and their supporters, and to pursue them inside and outside [the country].
- 7. To protect public and private installations against any sabotage or any military use by the enemy.
- 8. To reply with all propaganda, media, and political means to the invaders' hostile media, and to reveal the facts to local and world public opinion
- 9. To rally support and backing locally and externally in order to defeat the invading occupiers and purge every inch of the southern territory.
- 10. To consolidate security and stability in the liberated areas and throughout the DRY, and to spread the spirit of harmony, love, and peace among its citizens.

Chapter II: Structure

Article 4: The Southern Corps for Liberation (FJR) comprise the following:

A. Basic cells: military cells and supporting social cells in the occupied area, or wherever DRY citizens exist.

B. The corps of a directorate or an area: consists of all the military and social cells in the directorate, area, or city according to military, geographic, and social conditions.

C. The corps of a governorate: consists of the corps of the directorates and areas within the geographic framework of the governorate.

D. The Southern Corps for Liberation: consists of all the corps of the governorates in the DRY and abroad.

Article 5: Leading bodies of the Southern Corps for Liberation (FJR) consist of the following:

A. The general council: consists of commanders of the corps in the governorates, directorates, areas, and cities, in addition to heads of departments in the general staff, ulema, party and mass organizations' representatives, and notables.

B. The general council assumes the following main tasks:

- 1. To elect a general staff to take charge of the daily work of the FJR, and to elect a commander in chief.
- 2. To draw up the military and social policy for the FJR's work.

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- 3. Any other tasks it deem necessary.

Article 6: The general staff of the Southern Corps for Liberation comprises the following:

- 1. The military and security affairs office.
- 2. The information, propaganda, and incitement office.
- 3. The communication, coordination, and surveillance office.
- 4. The supply office.
- 5. The relief and medical care office.
- 6. The administrative and financial affairs office.
- 7. The legal affairs and human rights office

Article 7: The general staff of the councils in governorates, directorates, cities, and areas are formed in the same manner as the general staff of the general council (FJR).

Article 8: The basic cells of a corps comprise harmonious elements, taking account of the military and security aspect and the characteristics of the area when determining its tasks and the number of its members.

A. New cells are to be formed by a decision from the corps' commander in the directorate, city, or area.

B. A cell's head and his deputy are to be appointed by the corps' immediate superior.

C. Basic cells comprise the following:

- 1. combat military cells;
- 2. supporting social cells.

Chapter III: Membership

Article 9: The following categories are considered FJR members:

- 1. All the fighters engaged in resistance actions against the invaders since the invasion began.
- 2. Any citizen taking part in fighting the invaders by any means.
- 3. Any member of the parties and organizations opposed to the invaders.
- 4. New members who voluntarily join in to defeat the invaders

Article 10: Members' Duties:

A. A corps member takes the following oath when he joins:

"I—as a member of the Southern Corps for Liberation—swear by Almighty God to protect the secret system, to fight to defeat the invaders and their supporters, to implement my superiors' orders, and to be loyal to the DRY."

B. The oath is to be taken before the corps commander in the military zone or his deputy.

C. The member is to implement all the tasks and orders assigned to him by his superiors.

D. To inform his superiors immediately of any information related to the movements of the invaders and their supporters.

E. To safeguard secrecy and not be lax in implementing the tasks.

F. To respect his superiors, colleagues, and subordinates.

G. Not to seek to make personal gains or inflict harm on others.

H. To protect the corps' property, means [wasa'iluh], and reputation.

Article 11: Members' rights:

A. To be provided with all means, depending on available resources, to enable him to carry out the tasks assigned to him.

B. To be granted aid and incentives.

C. To be offered medical treatment in cases of injury.

D. His family is to be granted the specified rights and awards in cases of martyrdom or handicap.

Chapter IV: Financial Resources

Article 12: Sources of finance for the Southern Corps for Liberation (FJR) are as follows:

A. Members' contributions.

B. Donations from citizens, popular and official organizations, and parties and organizations.

C. External aid and donations.

D. War booty.

E. Any other sources.

Chapter V: General Rules

Article 13: The Southern Corps for Liberation (FJR) complies with the rules of international law and international agreements with regard to treatment of enemy POW's and wounded.

Article 14: Anyone who violates his duties, reveals the FJR's secrets, or works for the invaders and their supporters shall be tried before a field court [muhakamah maydaniyah].

Article 15: For the sake of safeguarding secrecy and the safety of FJR members, it is permissible to use noms de guerre instead of real names. The nom de guerre is to be considered the full name when implementing tasks and obtaining all rights.

Article 16: Orders are to be implemented according to the pyramid sequence in writing or through communication means, or verbally, according to military and security circumstances.

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Press Speculates on Talks With Israel

JN1008085494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 94 pp 12, 7

[By JORDAN TIMES correspondent Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—As Jordan and Israel continue to advance their quest for peace, there are increasing indications that Jordan's neighbour, Iraq, may soon be joining the Middle East peace process.

A clandestine meeting between an Iraqi defence official and Israelis was reported by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, the largest circulating paper in Israel in early August. An approach to Israel's U.N. envoy "to talk peace" by the Iraqi U.N. ambassador in New York was reported by the Palestinian-Israeli weekly in Nazareth, AL-SENARA.

But what amounts to speculation by the press does carry some evident weight behind it.

On the one hand Iraq appears to have become increasingly isolated internationally. On the other hand there are many signs that the allied resolve to keep it isolated is weakening.

However, despite French, Russian and Chinese protests every six weeks the U.N. sanctions committee are simply renewed without too much ado.

Attempts by the Turks to repair and reopen an oil pipeline, a bid by Pakistan to open airways allowing easier access for Shiite worshippers to visit Karbala and Najaf and pleas by Russia to recommence its projects from before the sanctions have all been stalled for the moment.

Even the Iraqi Kurds, the pet project of aid agencies, have now been pushed aside by the more urgent needy in Bosnia, Rwanda, Yemen and the like. A cut in the number of U.N. guards protecting the Kurds in the northern semi-autonomous regions have been decreased yet again after only 20 per cent of the $288 million needed to up-keep their and other U.N. operations was raised.

Internationally no-one appears to be talking about Iraq, but Iraqis are certainly talking. Iraqi officials pass in, out and through Amman weekly. When they are not speaking to Jordanian officials they are bound onwards to Cairo, London, New York, Paris and sometimes Peking and Moscow.

According to Iraqi officials who speak on condition of anonymity there are several things on the agenda of discussion.

"First of all Iraq is interested in getting sanctions lifted or at least relaxed. This is a number one priority," a government official told the JORDAN TIMES this week.

"There are an increasing number of conditions from different parties on how to achieve to achieve this," he said.

According to Iraqi officials the conditions that their country is expected to meet are being dictated primarily by the United States and its allies.

"First there are issues of "preferential trade relationships with U.S. firms—construction, reconstruction, petroleum etc. Then there is the issue of the peace talks," said the official. [quotation marks as published]

French, German, Russian, Turkish, Polish, Romanian, Japanese, Indian, Pakistani, Italian and Spanish businesses and semi-governmental delegations are seen more frequently in Baghdad. Many of them lost large markets and trading partners when Iraq was bombed into submission and its borders were closed to trade by U.S.-led allies and the United Nations.

According to a senior member of the European Commission in Brussels, Europeans question whether the U.S. insistence that sanctions against Iraq not be softened may be due to "strategic" rather than security reasons.

"We suspect that the U.S. will put a heavy price on its 'yeh' vote to lift sanctions," said the official. That price, many European officials suspect, may be "exclusive trade terms," said the EC official.

The Europeans say that much like what happened in post-war Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the "big deals will all go to the Americans—that's one price for lifting sanctions."

But Iraqi officials say that trade conditions are only one item on a long list of terms that are being talked about. "Since the beginning of the peace talks it has been clear that eventually we will be pressured to join the negotiations," said an Iraqi official in Baghdad recently.

"When the multilateral talks began two countries mentioned Iraq at the opening in Moscow—one was Jordan who spoke of humanitarian considerations and one was Israel who said there can be no arms talks without Iraq at the table," said the official.

"Israeli officials expanded on the arms talks and began to include water," said the official. But now Iraqi officials are saying that new elements are being introduced into the equation.

"Now there are suggestions that Iraq take some of the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and settle them permanently in Iraq," said the official.

While Jordanian and foreign sources close to the multilateral refugee talks say they know "nothing of this," Iraqi sources say that the possibility of resettling Palestinian refugees in Iraq is "being floated."

Less than 50,000 Palestinians lived and settled in Iraq since 1948. Most of these were given Iraqi nationally.

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Experts say that because most Palestinians are either Sunni Muslims or Christians, their presence in Iraq is favourable for the traditional Sunni leadership of the country.

In Lebanon the largely Muslim Palestinian population would further strain the delicate balance between religious groups and sects.

"They—the U.S. and Israel—want at least some of the Palestinians in Lebanon to be settled in Iraq because it is easier. Iraq is a big country that does not have a potential demographic crisis. They think that even if they sent all 300,000 Palestinians from Lebanon to Iraq they would be easily absorbed. Iraq is after all a country of 18 million," said the official.

While Iraq gave signs that it was willing to enter the peace process with Israel as far back as 1992 (through statements to the press and according to some sources secret talks in Eastern Europe) it has not officially done so.

Some Iraq observers believe that Iraq is or will be asked to sanction the peace negotiations prior to any opening of talks "to lose face with the Arabs—totally and finally."

"For many in the Arab World Iraq is the last stand of resistance to American and Israeli domination and influence. When Iraq bows the war is over," said a Jordanian Ba'thist recently. "They (the West) will try to make Iraq apologise to the Israelis or something like that—a public apology like the Germans made to the Jews—this will be the final humiliation for the Iraqis which the Israelis seek."

Iraqi officials deny that "things have deteriorated so far," but they are wary of the continuing pressure imposed by the U.S. on Iraq.

"The U.S. still gives very conflicting signs to Iraq," said the Iraqi official.

On Aug. 5 U.S. President Clinton, addressing Congress on Iraqi compliance with Gulf war and U.N. ceasefire terms, accused Iraq of sponsoring acts of "terror" against U.N. and humanitarian workers.

"Reliable reports have indicated that the government of Iraq is offering reward money for terrorist acts against the U.N. and humanitarian relief workers in Iraq." Because of such conduct, said Mr. Clinton, the U.S. intended to continue supporting sanctions.

Paper Marks Anniversary of Invasion of Kuwait

JN1008071394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The 2 August 1990 Event Was a Reply to the Plan of the Aggressors and a Firm Adherence to National Will"]

[Text] Yesterday was the fourth anniversary of the Day of the Great Call. On this day, the Iraqis recalled the 2 August 1990 event, which will remain engraved in their conscience as the firm reply to the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy which was aimed at cowing Iraq and subjugating its will to the wish of the foreign enemy.

While recalling this great event, we must put an important question regarding the circumstances and justifications which prompted Iraq to rise to its national responsibilities by facing a treacherous phase in that conspiracy, with its multiple sides and varied methods, and thus aborting it. Matters had gone beyond all limits and Iraq had no choice but to firmly confront and nip the conspiracy in the bud before it affected our people, especially since its dimensions and the local rulers' roles in it had been exposed.

What took place on 2 August was not a momentary reaction to mean and biased acts by Kuwait's rulers which could have been dealt with by warning or cautioning, although Iraq had resorted to such methods on all levels. In fact, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, was compelled to warn the rulers of Kuwait and the UAE at the extraordinary Baghdad summit conference in May 1990 of the dangers of flooding the markets with surplus oil which slashed prices and affected Iraq seriously, threatening an annual loss of one billion dollars for every drop of one dollar in the oil price. However, nobody heeded the voice of justice. The stand of those rulers was well known. They insisted on their error and continued with their plan, which only served Washington's interest and the U.S. Administration's endeavor to cause economic harm to Iraq and to disrupt its plans to rebuild itself after it had emerged victorious from the al-Qadisiyah Battle with the Iranian regime; the battle in which Khomeyni undertook the role of armed aggression on behalf of the imperialist-Zionist aggressive forces for eight years.

Whoever follows the chain of events very closely will clearly observe that the Kuwaiti rulers' involvement in implementing the role of applying economic pressure had come immediately after 8 August 1988, the day Khomeyni and his regime succumbed to Iraqi free will and bitterly acknowledged their defeat. Iran had no chance before the courageous Iraqi stand which was bolstered by the wisdom of its leader Saddam Husayn, who considered every small detail until the hour of great victory arrived.

For two years, the Kuwaiti rulers continued to use every means in order to strangulate Iraq economically after all attempts had failed to destroy it by war on behalf of Washington and its evil aggressive departments, which were alarmed by the rise in the region of a national regime with a free will and an independent decision, a regime against which all attempts at internal plotting had failed, beginning with the attempt to circumvent the revolution on 30 July 1968 and the declaration of direct war on it early in September 1980.

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It is understood that the conspiracy, whose successive stages were defeated one after the other thanks to the leadership's awareness of the dimensions of the hostile foreign plans and the Iraqi people's steadfastness, became more feverish with every step that was taken by the leader of the people, President Saddam Husayn, to strengthen national unity, political independence, and economic independence, especially following the restoration of the national oil wealth, which was stolen by Western oil monopolies, and its use as means to achieve agricultural and industrial development as an additional constant source of income for Iraq.

In the face of all challenges and possible escalations of the conspiracy, great achievements were made that played a major role in foiling the intentions of the aggressors and kept Iraq nationally powerful and mighty. The achievement of autonomy granting our Kurdish people their national and cultural rights, the immortal nationalization decision, the rebuilding of our heroic Iraqi Army into a national striking force, and the other important decisions to achieve prosperity for the people, promising them a bright new life and moving Iraq into a state of technological advancement; all that foiled the imperialist-Zionist aggressive plan and made the rancorous ones look for other means to achieve their designs—hence the assignment of roles. The military role was assigned to those who seized power in Iran in a suspicious manner, and the economic role was assigned to Kuwaiti and other Gulf rulers. Prompted by their hatred for Iraq and the Iraqis, these rulers went to the point of openly stealing Iraqi oil wealth from the southern al-Rumaylah oilfield and flooding world markets with surplus oil, which slashed prices, seriously affecting Iraq, which had just emerged from the war and needed large revenues to rebuild Iraqi life and to enable the country to resume the course of development anew.

What happened on 2 August 1990 was a natural reply to the open economic war the Kuwaiti rulers launched on Iraq in the interest and at the behest of their U.S. masters. This truth was revealed by the details of the 30-state aggression and the conspiratorial roles against Iraq before and after 2 August. The day of the immortal call has come to affirm the rejection by the Iraqis and their struggler leader Saddam Husayn of all policies of hegemony and coercion that the imperialists want to impose on Iraq and to point out that Iraqi will, as expressed by that event, is the one that will prevail forever. It is the symbol of inevitable, lasting victory for the Iraqis and their glorious nation. The roots of that victory have been deeply entrenched into Iraqi territory by the great Mother of Battles.

International Family Planning Aid Received

JN0908183094 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Dr. Sa'dun Khalifah al-Tikriti, chairman of the Iraqi Family Planning Society, has affirmed that the International Federation for Family Planning has given priority consideration to ensuring Iraq's needs, including medicaments related to family planning which are not available locally due to the continuation of the unfair economic embargo. Addressing the Executive Committee of the federation's Regional Council in Tunis, al-Tikriti said that the sufferings of Iraqi children and the tragedies of the blockade have met with great and clear understanding from the International Federation for Family Planning and the Arab World's Regional Bureau, both of which are appreciative of the role being played by the Iraqi Family Planning Society. This, he said, has led to an increase in the aid allocated for the society, including medicaments.

Ba'th Official Receives British LDP Team

JN0908171994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, head of the Foreign Relations Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Iraq Command, met with David Estelle [name as transliterated], official in charge of foreign relations in the British Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], and his delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the repercussions of the continued unjust blockade on Iraq, which caused the Iraqi people much suffering due to the lack of food, medicine, and other requirements of life.

The British LDP delegation arrived in Baghdad yesterday evening on a visit to Iraq lasting several days at the invitation of the Foreign Relations Office of the Ba'th Party's Iraq Command.

Met by Minister

JN0908174294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received David Estelle [name as transliterated], official in charge of foreign relations in the British Liberal Democratic Party, and his delegation.

During the meeting, the foreign minister explained Iraq's just call for lifting the unjust blockade after it has fulfilled the commitments stipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. He asserted that the Security Council should fulfill its commitments, primarily by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and ending the unjust blockade.

The minister pointed to the positions of many Security Council member states which abide by the legal interpretation of the Security Council's resolutions, appreciate Iraq's positive position, and support lifting the blockade.

David Estelle asserted that his visit to Iraq falls within a humanitarian framework to directly become acquainted

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with facts, particularly regarding the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade.

Malaria Epidemic Reported in Kurdistan Region

JN1008101194 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Reports from Irbil say that malaria has struck thousands of people in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan. 'Ali Barzanji, head of the Health Care Department in Irbil, announced that 39,000 were affected by malaria between March and June this year in northern Iraq. The region, he said, lacks means of protection from this disease due to burglaries by armed gangs that stripped hospitals and medical depots of all medicines and medical equipment.

Al-Jalabi on UINC Role in Kurdistan

MM0908143494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Heavy Shelling in Kurdistan Kills 40"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in London stated yesterday, Sunday, that fierce fighting and shelling in areas close to the Iranian border the day before yesterday resulted in 40 deaths and dozens of injuries among civilians.

The spokesman told AL-HAYAH that forces "loyal to the Islamists and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], supported by Iranian artillery" launched an attack at dawn Saturday on PUK positions on the outskirts of the city of Qal'at Dizah and the Zarawah complex nearby in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in northeastern Iraq near the Iranian border. He added that "in the afternoon the shelling extended to the city itself killing 40 people including four entire families and some women and children."

PUK leader Jalal Talabani has addressed a message to KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani and Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] Chairman Ahmad al-Jalabi urging them to "condemn that crime." He also requested the dispatch of "a fact-finding commission to expose it to Iraqi and Kurdish public opinion." In his message, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, he urged the KDP "to end its military and combat cooperation with Iran and the Islamic Movement" geared against the PUK.

UINC, KDP, and Islamist sources have confirmed the fighting in that area but they issued no statements in this connection.

AL-HAYAH has learned that a commission consisting of PUK, KDP, Islamic Movement, and UINC representatives proceeded to the area of the clashes in the outskirts of Qal'at Dizah. Its members, in a cable to Talabani, Barzani, and the Islamic Movement's leadership, said that the "barbaric" shelling of Qal'at Dizah was continuing late yesterday and that they remained in the nearby city of Raniyah because they could not reach Qal'at Dizah.

They added that they visited the mosque and hospital in Raniyah and counted "33 wounded people and 22 martyrs, most of them women and children," who were brought in from Qal'at Dizah. They described the continuous shelling of Qal'at Dizah as an "unprecedented crime" and expressed surprise that the shelling continued "since 0500 yesterday with innocent people being killed and all the parties knowing that and doing nothing about it."

Meanwhile, al-Jalabi, addressing a seminar held in London the day before yesterday, spoke about the part played by the UINC to stop the large-scale fighting which broke out last May between the KDP and the PUK. He said that the role of the regional government of Kurdistan should be strengthened and he criticized foreign states, including regional states, for refusing to deal with that government and for insisting on dealing with the Kurdish parties only.

The seminar was attended by a large number of Iraqis, some of whom attacked al-Jalabi personally and the UINC performance, maintaining that it failed to unite the opposition, which is still incapable of seriously challenging President Saddam Husayn's regime.

Al-Jalabi spoke of the achievements of the UINC which, he said, is not a party but an umbrella for political parties, movements, and organizations. He stressed that the UINC now has forces amounting to "thousands" in Iraqi Kurdistan, which he urged the opposition to use as its firm base for action against the Baghdad regime. He added that the UINC is in contact with many elements in the Iraqi armed forces.

Al-Jalabi admitted that the UINC has many problems and that some major opposition forces are still not in it. He called for a serious dialogue among all opposition parties.

Barzani Discusses Kurdish, Regional Issues

NC0808124794 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 10

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, by Jihad al-Zayn in Salah al-Din; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Zayn] Let us begin with the hot issues. My personal impression after staying 48 hours in Kurdistan is that your relations with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] are rather tense. This is especially true in light of the latest reports of an attempt to assassinate Mr. Faransu Hariri, one of your party leaders, while negotiations are being held in Paris, which reveals how bad the relations are now.

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[Barzani] Surely the situation has not reverted to what it was before the 1 May incidents; in other words, normalization has not taken its course yet.

The negative effect of the attempted assassination of Faransu Hariri a few days ago on the normalization process is under discussion, but it should not stand in the way of this process. There is a determination to normalize the situation so that we can restore things to the way they were before. Nevertheless, what happened between us and the PUK in the last two months was not minor and its repercussions will remain for some time.

[Al-Zayn] I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the word normalization is used in the Arab world in relation to the problem between the Arabs and Israel. Therefore, the use of the word in inter-Kurdish relations seems to me to be unsuccessful.

[Barzani] (Barzani laughs) I would be grateful if you would help us choose a better term.

[Al-Zayn] You must help yourselves.

[Barzani] The aim, anyway, is to restore the situation to normal by dealing with the causes of the inter-Kurdish fighting. As to what would be the appropriate word, this is a formal matter.

[Al-Zayn] The mechanism you will use to avoid the recurrence of fighting is the important thing. What is this mechanism that will prevent you from entering into a state of continuous attrition? We experienced this situation for a long time in Lebanon when the militia existed

[Barzani] There are numerous approaches. A higher committee has been formed to supervise the normalization, as well as subcommittees in all governorates and even at district levels.

There is a proposal to hold an Iraqi-Kurdish national conference under discussion by a preparatory committee. Perhaps the important thing that might emerge from that conference is a charter for the province (Iraqi Kurdistan). If we agree on a working charter as a constitution for the province, I imagine that we will bypass numerous problems. What is important is that the elections be held as scheduled next May and an accurate population census be conducted before the elections. We will make sure that such elections are fair, democratic, and free and are monitored by neutral friendly parties.

[Al-Zayn] So an agreement has been reached in Paris on the elections and census? (The Paris conference was still in session)

[Barzani] Yes. I received a cable yesterday evening indicating that some good agreements were concluded.

[Al-Zayn] Does this mean that you and [PUK Leader] Jalal Talabani will go to Paris for the final signing of these agreements?

[Barzani] There are signs that a date will be decided on later.

[Al-Zayn] Couldn't these negotiations be held in Kurdistan without having to go to Paris?

[Barzani] My view is that if the problems between us are not solved here, they will not be solved in Paris or London. But there was an initiative from the French Government and President Mitterrand and it was improper for us to reject the gesture. This is evidence that there is an international interest that must be pursued. Any agreement will be futile if the problems are not solved here.

[Al-Zayn] Diplomatic circles are saying that the French initiative—with which the United States is not happy although it is participating in it—actually aims more at preparing you as Kurdish parties for a dialogue with Baghdad than at mediating to resolve your differences.

[Barzani] The real aim of this initiative is to help us solve our internal problems. From what I heard about brother Jalal Talabani's meeting with the French foreign minister, Juppe noted that it would be better for us to negotiate with Baghdad. We will not oppose the principle of negotiations. Solving the Kurdish problem with Baghdad is preferred but there is also Security Council Resolution 688. If this resolution is the basis for any negotiations and if any negotiations are held with UN approval, then our stance will not be negative. Direct negotiations between us and Baghdad are something else.

[Al-Zayn] Do the other Iraqi opposition parties share your view about the need for dialogue?

[Barzani] Let us be frank. There are forces that are regarded as part of the opposition but they have no presence on the ground or among the popular bases. They are adamantly against the negotiations. They have no commitment toward the land or the people that makes them feel the people's suffering. If the negotiations will lead to a democratic solution for the Kurdish problem and Iraq, then everyone who cares about the people and Iraq's interest will support the negotiations.

[Al-Zayn] What is the basis for negotiations with Baghdad? We believe—and you repeatedly declare this—that you have no plans to set up an independent Kurdish state. But despite your assurances, the neighboring countries appear unconvinced that you will abandon any opportunity to declare a state. How much does this lack of trust affect your relations with the neighboring areas in addition to your relations with Baghdad?

[Barzani] Allow me to answer you according to my own convictions. This question is raised often. If we define the Kurdish problem as one of a divided nation, then it does have the right to self-determination and to setting up an independent state. What befell this nation after World War I was unjust. Nobody consulted it. But this has become a fait accompli and we cannot change it. Nor

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are there influential forces helping us to change this decision. If I tell you that I have no desire to change this situation, then I would not be telling you the truth. We have a goal and regard this as a legitimate right. The reality is something else. The imposed reality is one of partition and we must look for a solution. This solution is based on maintaining the unity of the countries concerned. Let me specify the following:

- 1. We cannot stand on our own feet economically.
- 2. Independence from Iraq is impossible. Our borders are with Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. How will we protect our independence if all these countries stand against us? The fears of partition are misplaced. But there are two bases for the solution:

- 1. A democratic struggle in Baghdad.
- 2. A federal basis so that we can be partners in the decisionmaking center in Baghdad, shoulder our duties, and obtain our rights. We do not want to secede. The issue of independence concerns the whole region and needs a change in ideologies, concepts, and situations. As to the part concerning Iraq, we certainly do not want secession.

[Al-Zayn] That is fine but you must be aware of the delicacy of the problem and the Arab concern for Iraq's unity. There is a feeling that the Kurds are being used by the West to blackmail and threaten countries in the region.

You have just given me a reasonable assessment of the situation in the region. The Western interest in the Kurdish issue may be humanitarian but it is also selective. There are other groups in the region that are in need of humanitarian attention. Why are the Kurds being singled out? There is an impression that, willingly or unwillingly, you are being used as an instrument of blackmail against the countries of the region. How would you escape from this perception and build bridges of trust between you and other nations in the region?

[Barzani] This may be a common perception of the Kurdish problem but it is wrong. Arabs and others do not understand us, because of a lack of communication. The solution lies in dialogue. Dialogue will further understanding. The Kurdish people, as I said, are the victims of a historical injustice. The Kurdish nation is neither better nor worse than other nations. It is an old nation that helped to create Muslim civilization. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zayn] Let me ask you a particular question. I will name some regional and international powers and I would like you to state briefly your relations with each of them. Let us begin with Syria.

[Barzani] I see our relations with Syria as ties of brotherhood and friendship. Syria opened its doors to us in difficult times, when other doors, now open, were closed to us. On ethical grounds alone, we must be grateful. Politically, we have a grievance against Syria. We expected Syria to become actively involved with us. Instead it remained distant and aloof. (AL-SAFIR [editorial note]: Syrian borders with the Kurdish region are officially closed. The Iraqi Ba'th Party Organization based in Damascus took no part in the Iraqi National Congress.)

[Al-Zayn] And what about Turkey?

[Barzani] Our relations with Turkey are recent. We had no relations with Turkey before 1991. Since then it has become our only window to the outside world. We consider our relations with Turkey to be extremely vital. It is our gateway to the outside world. As for Turkey's internal problems with regard to the Kurdish issue, we have repeatedly made our position clear: The Kurdish people are persecuted in Turkey. They are entitled to their full rights. This is an issue. There is also the Kurdish Workers Party, PKK. We differ with this party in its methods and many other things. Specifically, we disapprove of what it is doing in our land in Iraqi Kurdistan.

But we believe that the Kurdish issue in Turkey should be resolved in a democratic and peaceful way. The violence practiced by the PKK and that of the Turkish forces will solve nothing. Our relations with the PKK are based on its position on our domestic affairs. Should it stop interfering in the affairs of the Iraqi Kurdistan region, our relations with it will be just fine. What it does inside Turkey is not our concern.

[Al-Zayn] What about Iran?

[Barzani] Our longest borders are with Iran; both Iran's borders with Kurdistan and with Iraq as a whole. Iran has long harbored the Kurdish parties, and this is an ethical point we must not forget. However, after elections were held in Iraqi Kurdistan, Iran's stance was distant and chilly.

Besides, we regard these tripartite meetings at the level of foreign ministers that Iran is holding with Turkey and Syria mainly as interference in Iraqi internal affairs. Iraq's fate should not be decided in the absence of Iraq, whether the government or the people. We did not expect Iran or Syria to adopt this negative stance toward our government in the province and even toward other Iraqi opposition factions.

[Al-Zayn] What about France?

[Barzani] I consider our relations with France friendly. France has played a role in supporting the Kurdish cause and was the first country to endorse the establishment of a national Kurdish entity. In our recurrent meetings with French officials, particularly with President Mitterrand, they have stressed their support for the Kurdish issue within the framework of Iraq and hence these relations are good and firm.

[Al-Zayn] What about Britain?

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[Barzani] The relations with it are good. Perhaps Britain feels guilty because it primarily bears the responsibility for the division of the Kurdish people, and maybe it is trying to make up for that now.

[Al-Zayn] The United States?

[Barzani] All roads lead to Washington (?via) London. I won't hide the fact that I was very hesitant to establish relations with Washington after what happened in 1975, the great treachery committed by Kissinger and the administration against the Kurdish people (the agreement between the shah and Saddam in Algiers). I do not hold Saddam, the shah, Boumedienne, or al-Sadat responsible because what happened would not have been possible without the United States.

So I was very hesitant to establish relations after several contacts because what happened was regrettable and shameful. My first official contact with the Americans was in July 1992. Since then it has been apparent that the U.S. policy on the Kurds is based on humanitarian considerations. Other than this aspect, they had no clear stance on us or on Iraq.

The only thing we sensed in that meeting with Baker was that what took place in 1975 should not happen again. He told us that the world has changed over 20 years, and I hope this is true. They now support democracy in Iraq and federal ties between the Kurds and the central authority on the condition that Iraq's unity be preserved, and we are convinced of that.

I now believe that our relationship with Washington is on a firm foundation and that forces in Congress, the White House, and the administration in general share this view.

[Al-Zayn] When differences occur between the policies of regional and major countries toward Iraq, as is happening now on the issue of lifting the sanctions, on which relationship do you rely?

[Barzani] We support lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq on the condition that the United Nations oversees the distribution of aid or quotas to the Iraqi people and that the regime does not monopolize the decisions we reach. Our stance on policies depends on what they want: if they support the regime, then we do not accept them, but if they are looking for a democratic solution, then we support the efforts.

[Al-Zayn] Politically speaking, then, you are now closer to the U.S. stance?

[Barzani] What makes you think so?

[Al-Zayn] On the basis of the criteria you yourself have mentioned. The Americans are refusing to lift the sanctions except on conditions, while the French and Turks believe that the conditions have been fulfilled.

[Barzani] We conditionally support the lifting of sanctions off Iraq and not off the regime alone.

[Al-Zayn] Saddam Husayn himself referred to this when he recently said, according to what I read in his newspapers that are distributed here, that the siege of Iraq has started to unravel?

[Barzani] Maybe he meant the stances of some Security Council member states. In practice, the siege is continuing as it was.

[Al-Zayn] Is there information about secret contacts, such as the talk about Iraqi-Israeli contacts?

[Barzani] We do not know but we would not be surprised. The Arab countries are making contacts with Israel.

[Al-Zayn] Does this influence your policies?

[Barzani] I do not think so.

[Al-Zayn] How do you describe your view of Turkish-Israeli relations?

[Barzani] All the Arab countries are now about to build relations with Israel. This is not a problem for us nor is it an urgent issue. If Israeli-Arab relations are normalized, then we do not have any objections, but this issue is not under discussion now.

[Al-Zayn] Nor, in fact, practically raised?

[Barzani] At present, no.

[Al-Zayn] Going back to your present position in northern Iraq, you are surrounded from all sides. What form of financing do you have, especially as you have a government that needs revenue for managing the people's affairs, let alone the military needs?

[Barzani] Regarding weapons, we obtained vast quantities and not small quantities from the Iraqi Army's arsenals. (Barzani smiles)

Money and not weapons is the problem. Regarding the financing of the administration, there is a major source of revenue from the customs posts. Some factories are producing and providing revenue, and there are taxes. But all this is not enough to cover the budget financing. Direct financial aid has not reached us yet. What we are getting is coming from the nongovernmental organizations operating here (N.G.O.) [acronym in English].

[Al-Zayn] I observed on the road between Zakho and Salah-al-Din posters advertising projects by the Islamic World League or the Relief Committee. Does this mean an alliance with countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, when we know that Jalal Talabani is clashing with the Islamic Movement, which has relations with these two countries?

[Barzani] I and the Iraqi opposition delegation visited Saudi Arabia last year and met King Fahd. It was no more than a courtesy visit.

[Al-Zayn] No continuing relations?

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[Barzani] No. It was the first time that I visited Saudi Arabia. It was a good visit and they deeply respected us. There is in practice no relationship. The work of the Islamic League and the Relief Committee is limited to the building of a school here and a mosque there. There are no political connotations.

[Al-Zayn] All right, let us go back to the general Kurdish situation in the region. It is known that last year you and the PKK clashed in Iraqi Kurdistan. I would like to hear your comments on three matters: First, despite your attempt to limit the presence of the PKK on your land, it is still there; second, this situation creates many problems for you in terms of refugees coming in from Turkey and Turkish military operations in your area; third, one aspect of your conflict with the PKK, according to some sources, is rivalry over the leadership of the Kurdish movement in greater Kurdistan, as the Kurds call it.

[Barzani] Right. We had clashes with the PKK in the fall of 1992. The reason was that it interfered flagrantly in our internal affairs. It established an authority and interfered in daily life. First, we warned it, more than once. Then, we had to do something. The clashes continued until the PKK agreed to our terms and signed an agreement. According to that agreement, PKK presence would be confined to one base. They have established a base in an isolated mountain area and another one north of Zakho. These are distant border areas. They have no bases deep in our land.

I do not deny that PKK infiltrations into Turkey take place illegally and without our knowledge. They operate in uninhabited regions, whose people were moved into camps away from the borders between 1975 and 1990 by the Iraqi regime. We have asked international nongovernmental organizations and even the Turkish Government to help us rebuild villages in these areas. But up to this very moment these areas remain unpopulated because of Turkish-PKK fighting.

As for the second matter, or the reason why the operations continue, it is because we have not really attained democracy.

As for the third point, we do not share this perception. If this is what the PKK thinks, that is its own problem. Our responsibility is confined to Iraqi Kurdistan. We do not consider ourselves responsible for what happens in other parts of Kurdistan. Of course, our sympathies lie with the rights of our brothers and we oppose the undemocratic practices of officials in other countries. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zayn] Will continued problems between you and the PUK produce internal strife? Will you eventually resort to the military option?

[Barzani] Problems can only be solved through dialogue and democracy. We see infighting as suicidal. We tried to stop the fighting every time it occurred. To clarify the matter further, we did not instigate the fighting. In some areas we even assumed a defensive position. I never allowed the DPK to launch a wide-scale offensive. Fighting is no solution. I am optimistic that it will never happen again. We are past the critical stage.

[Al-Zayn] Past the critical stage?

[Barzani] Yes, I think that we are past it. Skirmishes may occur, even in Irbil, but the specter of full-scale fighting is no longer there.

[Al-Zayn] What is the guarantee that this specter has vanished?

[Barzani] The other side. The PUK knows well that it cannot win.

[Al-Zayn] This, you think, is enough?

[Barzani] Yes, the other side thought that it could win and it no longer does. This is the guarantee. We are ashamed and embarrassed about what happened. We used to boast to our friends and people of the democratic experience we were going through. Then, to our shame, clashes broke out.

PUK's Talabani on Relations With Iran, Turkey

NC0808170294 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 10

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, by Jihad al-Zayn in Irbil; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Zayn] May we ask you how you arrange your finances, given that you are surrounded by states the most friendly of which don't even trust you, let alone the other ones?

[Talabani] I will speak frankly. During the days when there was a domestic detente, the forces were united in the peshmerga ministry, which was paying their salaries. Following the recent fighting, each side began exercising control over the sources of finance, namely customs. The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] took control of the Ibrahim al-Khalil border point in Zakho, on the border with Turkey. We in al-Sulaymaniyah took control of the border points with Iran. What is happening is that the KDP collects customs fees on the goods that pass through their areas; we collect customs fees on the goods that pass through our areas. We pay the employees' salaries in al-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk. The joint government pays salaries in Irbil and the central region. The KDP pays salaries in Dahuk.

[Al-Zayn] Are there no other sources of funds?

[Talabani] Regarding the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, I can confirm that we have no other sources. I do not know about the others. However, there is aid the Iranians give to the Islamic Movement in broad daylight at the border. This is no secret.

[Al-Zayn] I have heard, for example, that Shaykh ['Abd-al- 'Aziz] 'Uthman [leader of the Kurdistan Islamic

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Movement] is now in Saudi Arabia. This movement, therefore, receives support from both Saudi Arabia and Iran.

[Talabani] When we stormed their headquarters, we seized documents addressed to the Iranians and saying they support Iran against the Kurdish opposition movement. We seized other documents addressed to Saudi Arabia and asking for its help so they could confront firstly the secular danger—primarily the PUK, which is spreading heresy and atheism—and secondly the Shiite danger, which wants to spread the subversive ideas of Khomeyni to the naive Sunnis. That is what they tell Saudi Arabia, which is paying them huge sums of money. In addition, there is a wing in the movement linked to the Afghans and led by someone called Karikar. The three wings of the movement—the Saudi, Iranian, and Afghan wings—are at odds with each other.

[Al-Zayn] Does the PUK encourage the Kurdish opposition in Iran?

[Talabani] As a Kurdish party, we cannot be against other Kurdish parties in any region of Kurdistan. This applies to our stand on the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] in Turkey, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan [DPIK], and all Kurdish parties in other states or which have a presence in our region. However, we have asked these parties not to launch military operations from Iraqi Kurdistan. Politically, these parties have their own newspapers, radios, and political headquarters in Iraqi Kurdistan. In other words, political and media activity is permissible and military activity is banned. However, they sometimes violate this ban. This applies to the PKK, which has headquarters here.

[Al-Zayn] If you suffer the consequences for this from the Iranians with whom you differ, how are you dealing with the consequences in a state that is very sensitive to military activity on its territory, such as Turkey?

[Talabani] Turkey also has not been friendly to the PUK. In recent days Turkey has criticized us, calling us supporters of the PKK. Regarding Iran, we have never concealed from the Iranian officials our relations with the Kurdish parties in Iran, above all the DPIK. Once we even mediated between the Iranian Government and the DPIK. However, they cut off this mediation when they killed DPIK leader 'Abd-al-Rahman Qasimlu. We used to have good relations with Iran during the days of fighting against Saddam Husayn. However, the problem is that Iran is asking us to expel the Iranian Kurdish forces from our region. Our answer is that these Iranian Kurds were here when Saddam Husayn was in control. Consequently, is it logical for Iraqi Kurds to expel the Kurds who were hosted by Saddam Husayn? Can Saddam Husayn be more Kurdish than us? This is unacceptable. We told the Iranians we could prevent these Iranian Kurds from launching military operations against them from across the border but we cannot expel them, because we cannot become border guards for the Islamic Republic of Iran against its Kurds. The maximum we can offer is neutrality.

[Al-Zayn] Are you preventing these people's military actions now?

[Talabani] No, we only offered to do that. But then the Iranians incited the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan and KDP members against us, so why should we impede the others? However we are still willing to reach agreement with them on this matter. This also applies to the PKK. Now we have ideological and political differences with the PKK. Our methods of operation our different. We are friendly with the Americans, the British, and Westerners in general; the PKK considers them imperialists. We are socialists and the PKK people are Marxists. Still, we cannot become the Turkish Government's gendarmerie against a Kurdish movement.

[Al-Zayn] What you demand of Iran already occurs on the Turkish border, where international forces supervise the "safe haven" in northern Iraq. Despite this, your relations with Turkey are tense, unlike Mas'ud Barzani's relations with it.

[Talabani] My name is Jalal Talabani, not Mas'ud Barzani. We told them that we were willing to defend their borders and prevent PKK infiltrators from crossing over. We met with PKK representatives and told them: Brothers, our circumstances do not permit us to let you operate militarily against Turkey from here. We want you to evacuate the border area. You can either return to your country and fight there as you wish or just leave the border area. We cannot allow you to remain here and operate against Turkey in a situation similar to that of south Lebanon. There was a clash between us and we compelled the PKK to submit and evacuate the border areas in 1993.

[Al-Zayn] You and the KDP took part in this clash, is that not so?

[Talabani] Yes, each of us did so in his own area. When the PKK agreed to evacuate the border area, we told them they were welcome to stay in any other area, where they could operate politically but not militarily. They agreed and an agreement to that effect was signed between the government of the region of Kurdistan and the PKK. It was signed by Ferhat [Osman] Ocalan, brother of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. We transferred them from the Birade area, which is under our control, to an area 200 km away from the border and settled them there. Twelve months passed without the Turkish Government's recording one cross-border incident or violation. Then two border incidents occurred early in 1994, one in our area and the other in the KDP's area. We told the Turks we would carry out an investigation. We combed the area in the presence of Turkish journalists and army officers but did not find a single PKK gunman. Turkish newspapers published that fact. I must make a necessary remark here. Most of the border area with Turkey is in the KDP's hands. What we control is the

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Turkish-Iraqi-Iranian border triangle, where there is very difficult terrain. Is one incident in two years so serious? [passage omitted]

My position regarding the PUK's responsibility is the following: We oppose PKK infiltration into Turkey, although the PKK's main presence is in (Bahidinan) in the Dahuk District, which lies within the KDP's area of control. We also helped to persuade Ocalan to change his position from advocating an independent Kurdish state to advocating a federal state with Turkey. Others in Turkey are calling for that too, [former president Turgut] Ozal among them. We believe that we have done a service to Turkey, going as far as to persuade Ocalan to denounce terrorism publicly.

[Al-Zayn] Are contacts between you and Turkey still cut off?

[Talabani] No, they were renewed after my most recent visit. We have a PUK office in Ankara now. Their attitude to us has improved. Formerly they believed that we alone helped the PKK and that the KDP was hostile to them. When the KDP stopped opposing the PKK's presence, the Turks showed a better understanding of my position.

[Al-Zayn] The KDP says the PKK is occupying two isolated bases.

[Talabani] God willing, yes. I do not know the KDP's area well. Others know it better.

[Al-Zayn] From the foregoing we now understand that the dictum that foreign policy is decided by domestic conditions also applies to you. Both the KDP and the PUK have areas of influence, and that results in two separate foreign policies.

[Talabani] That is true; we have two different foreign policies. We are trying to unify them now. The KDP used to regard the PKK as the basic threat to the Kurdish nation. We do not see it that way; the basic danger to us comes from despotic Baghdad. We also do not cooperate with Iran against Kurdish parties; while at various times the KDP has done so. They have good ties with Iran. We believe that Iran is attempting to create a border zone in our areas similar to the border zone created by Israel in south Lebanon.

[Al-Zayn] With Syria?

[Talabani] Our relations with Syria are totally different. They are very good, particularly with President Hafiz al-Asad. In addition, we do not believe there is a volatile Kurdish issue in Syria. This does not mean, however, that we do not acknowledge the existence of Kurds in Syria. The Kurds in Syria live in diverse and distinctive regions that are far apart. In Syria, there is no defined Kurdistan territory with borders. There are Kurdish citizens who have cultural rights. There is no volatile situation with the Kurds. In addition, the Kurdish parties in Syria are not demanding their own identity or teaching in Kurdish, and other such issues.

[Al-Zayn] Does the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] also subscribe to this view?

[Talabani] Yes. Regarding relations with Syria, we and the KDP agree.

[Al-Zayn] But today, brother Mas'ud [Barzani], after praising the services Syria has provided, told me that he is displeased with Syrian lukewarmness toward autonomy.

[Talabani] We do not subscribe to that view. We believe that we are responsible for the lukewarmness in relations with Syria. For example, when we negotiated with the Iraqi Government, we did it without the KDP's knowledge. They have every right to be displeased with us, because we did not tell them we are going to these negotiations. We did not even inform them, even though we had worked together with them to form the opposition. The Syrians have never interfered in our affairs at all. I believe that the recent lukewarmness in relations is a result of our participation in the Iraqi National Congress. I do not think that gives them the right to feel this way about us. We have not broken off either relations or alliances with Syria. We just tell them to treat us as they do the various political forces in Lebanon. Their relations with Lebanon are not confined to the Ba'th Party, which is boycotting the Iraqi National Congress.

[Al-Zayn] Like Lebanon?

[Talabani] I mean we, the Kurdish movement, the Islamic Movement, and the communists are all their friends. There is no one single party that is monopolizing this friendship.

[Al-Zayn] On the way from Zakho to Salah-al-Din, I noticed some placards displayed by some institutions such as the Muslim World League and the International Islamic Council for Call and Relief. These are organizations with strong links to Saudi Arabia. Do they operate in your region of influence?

[Talabani] Yes, yes. Everywhere. With the exception of the Islamic Movement, we have no problem with Islamic activities. The Islamic Union is present here, as are the Kurdish Islamic League and the Muslim Brotherhood. The problem is with the Islamic Movement. In the beginning, we helped this Movement. It started in Iran, and we helped it against the Iraqi regime by hosting it in our region. However, with the approach of elections, a faction emerged which said: Elections are like Marxism—a Western creation. They declared their hostility to the Kurdistan region's government, but in the elections each of the Islamic parties got around 30,000 votes. These are eight parties that have started mobilizing people and believe that they can control our region. And what happened is history. We expelled them very quickly because we reject their military action. However, we welcome their political activities.

[Al-Zayn] To move on to the Paris conference, what happens after the international agreement between your

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two delegations? Will you go together with Mas'ud Barzani to sign the agreement?

[Talabani] Yes, in the second half of August, because President Mitterrand's illness has delayed the signing. He will personally attend the signing ceremony. The agreement stipulates elections in May 1995. And before the elections, a census will be carried out under the supervision of an international body with experience in this field. The election law will also be amended, because the current law stipulates that seven percent of the vote is necessary for a party to get a seat in parliament. The KDP insisted on these changes. We accept one percent, on the basis of proportionate representation, so that the smaller parties will be allowed to join parliament. We will discuss this point during the international conference which will be held here and which we agreed to hold.

[Al-Zayn] It has been reported that the invitation to Paris was met with reservations by Britain and the United States because France's real aim is to prepare you for a phase of dialogue with Baghdad, which Turkey, Russia, and China also want.

[Talabani] This question encompasses several topics which I will explain in detail.

First of all, we prefer a permanent French role, because France never colonized us. We have no traditional problems with France. All French forces have also traditionally sympathized with the Kurds, including General de Gaulle, President Mitterrand, the French left, and the French right. Valery Giscard d'Estaing put his signature with 100 other world personalities in support of the Kurdish people. For these reasons and for the sake of the balanced situation required for a future democratic and pluralistic Iraq, we welcome the French role.

Others might want to confine Iraq within their own sphere of influence and to exclude any role for France. We want this French role. Regarding what you call U.S. reservations, I have not noticed any U.S. reservations. The Americans did not ask us not to participate in the Paris conference. They participated in the conference as observers. Britain took the view that Mas'ud [Barzani] and I should remain in the [Kurdistan] region to maintain domestic peace but did not oppose the Paris conference. A representative of the British Embassy attended the meeting. Regarding a French role in the dialogue with Baghdad, I did not notice any move in this direction. I met with Foreign Minister Alain Jupe. I met with Minister of State for Defense Francois Leotard, with whom I held a cordial discussion. I met with forces from the left. They think that within the framework of a united Iraq there is no objection to the Kurds having something more extensive than autonomy. Frankly speaking, they agree to the partitioning of Iraq [sentence as published]. They believe that the Kurds should not exclude diplomatic and political activity, just as they should not drop military activity to achieve this objective. In other words, they do not want the doors of dialogue with Baghdad to be closed regardless of the kind of regime there. However, they do not push for going to Baghdad except on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 688, which calls for a dialogue. We support holding this dialogue under international protection.

[Al-Zayn] If you are confronted in the future with a situation where Iraq accepts a radical transformation of its relationship with Israel in return for lifting the sanctions against it and starting a new era, what will your position be? What will your fate be in the context of such a deal, assuming that it happens?

[Talabani] I will be very frank with you on this point. [Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz formerly threatened us with such a situation. During our dialogue with him after the Gulf war, he said: Be careful. We might surmount the Israeli hurdle. If we are forced to recognize Israel, we will win applause from the West. You will be in trouble then. Come, let us reach agreement now because that is better for you.

This happened in 1991 and I have reported his remarks exactly as he said them. Second, we have definite information about contacts between the Iraqi regime and Israel. President Mubarak made a declaration about some of these contacts. Perhaps these contacts occurred with Egyptian help. Knowing the Iraqi regime as I do, I judge it capable of anything for the sake of its own survival. Let me tell this story. I once asked the late 'Abd-al-Khaliq al- Samarra'i: There is a difficult knot in our relationship with you; can you help untie it?

He replied: Yes. And so I told him: You stand accused of involvement with the British. People say you are Britain's "clients." Is this true?

Al-Samarra'i said: Brother Jalal, we are not anyone's clients. Still I want to tell you the truth. We have come to power to stay. A group of our leaders who have a promising future—and I might not be among them—are willing to do anything for the sake of survival.

Al-Samarra'i used to express the views of Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr [former Iraqi president] who had a complex as a result of the coup against him in 1963 and did not wish to repeat the experience. Hence, if the Americans assure them they can stay in power, they will not hesitate to recognize Israel. I am sure of this; but I doubt that Israel will recognize them. Still, this is how I see the picture: The perpetuation of the Baghdad regime serves Israeli policy. A friend of mine, who is an expert, told me that the Arab world has never seen a regime provoking Arab divisions like the Iraqi regime. Its continuance in power prevents any inter-Arab solidarity. Any change in power would improve the prospects for inter-Arab solidarity. So why change this regime? If it can guarantee its own survival, the Iraqi regime is willing not only to recognize Israel but also to recognize an independent Kurdish state in Iraqi Kurdistan. It will do so if the choice is between its own survival and such recognition. Former German Foreign Minister Genscher told me after the Kuwait war

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that the Baghdad regime had offered to place itself under U.S. influence and serve its interests for 20 years in return for a settlement with the United States. Dietrich-Genscher said that Western policy is to dry up the Iraqi lake and make the ruling fish in Baghdad die. I want to disclose another piece of information to you. Once, during our 1991 negotiations in Baghdad in the presence of Brother Mas'ud Barzani and several other Kurdish leaders, I asked Tariq 'Aziz during a meeting I had with him on the sidelines of a reception they held for us: Why did you occupy Kuwait?

'Aziz answered: Listen Abu-Baqir [Talabani]. We did that for two reasons. First we were hungry; and second, we learned in April 1990 that the Kuwaitis were scheming to overthrow us. So we said to ourselves, we'll occupy Kuwait and then strike a deal with them to give them back Kuwait and so ensure our own survival.

Still I do not believe that a deal securing Iraqi recognition of Israel will be easy, because of the kind of image that Saddam Husayn now has in the West. A friend of mine told me: Don't be afraid that Chirac (Jacques, leader of the French right) will recognize Saddam. If Chirac wants to become president, he will not do so, because it would ruin his popularity.

[Al-Zayn] In your opinion, what has the Israeli wager on the Kurdish card produced?

[Talabani] First of all, my evaluation of the situation is that the Israelis do not want to divide the region for an obvious and important reason—Turkey. Israel has excellent relations with Turkey, a large Islamic country. Dividing the region would have to take into account the 15-20 million Kurds in it. The second reason is that Israeli economic strategy for the region is based on working with two countries: Egypt and Turkey. All three countries do not approve of dividing Iraq. Had Iraq been alone, the issue of a partition would have been very easy and it would have been divided into 20 parts. But the issue involves Turkey too. Therefore, what is being said about an Israeli presence in Kurdistan is no more than mere fantasy. Israel used to play the Kurdish card in the sixties, up until 1975, to divert Iraq from its eastern front, to weaken it, and for an internal reason. In fact, there is popular Israeli sympathy with the Kurdish issue. The Israeli Government comes to power through elections, not coups. There is a Kurdish Jew community of around 150,000 inside Israel. Ever since 1906 the Jews of Kurdistan have been immigrating to Israel. They are now in Jerusalem and Tiberias, and they have relatives in Kurdistan. They have organizations, public figures, ministers, and Knesset members. During the Kurdish New Year's celebrations in this community, the prime minister is obliged to visit and share a traditional meal with them. However, Kurdish-Israeli relations were broken after 1975, after the betrayal by Kissinger, when the Kurds were sacrificed, as he himself said. The Israeli stand is now in harmony with the Turkish stand.

In short, I do not believe that the Jewish atmosphere would normally be hostile to a Kurdish state, if one existed now. However, the Jews now are not working to establish such a state at all because of their relations with Turkey. Now,there is a new element: They do not want to anger the Arabs, with whom they are being reconciled at this time. However, what I fear is that water will enslave us in the 21st century, after oil enslaved us during the 20th century. There are water sources in Kurdistan, and Israel wants the water coming from areas under Turkish control.

[Al-Zayn] Have the Israelis tried to contact you?

[Talabani] Believe me when I say that so far they have not. Even during the conferences of the Socialist International, they make a point of not coming anywhere near me during the meetings. Israeli relations with Kurdistan ended in 1975. With regard to me, during the 1960's I was considered to be the friend of the Palestinians, not the Israelis. I used to cooperate with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. However, I would like to ask a question here: Why do the Arabs have the right to contact the Israelis while the Kurds do not? Why is it that when Talabani receives a Jewish American journalist (who has an Israeli passport) he is considered a traitor and a turncoat. I mean, am I supposed to be more Catholic than the pope or more Palestinian than the Arabs?

[Al-Zayn] Brother Jalal, how do you explain your widespread reputation among the Arabs, and now the Turks, of being both a clever and sly person at the same time?

[Talabani] Some people do not understand that the person who captains a ship is different from someone who sits in a room. The one sailing a ship has to take it to its destination, but with varying direction according to the wind and the ebb and flow of the tide. The captain of a ship is not like the driver of a train who needs to drive on only one track. The captain of a ship has to maneuver, move north and south, east and west, and dodge waves. However, the important thing is not to lose sight of the objective. [passage omitted]

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Gaps With Syria, No Fast Progress Seen

TA1008065294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Menahem Friedman on 10 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] How do you view remarks made by a senior U.S. official yesterday to the effect that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would like to reach an arrangement with Israel by the end of the year?

[Savir] In their latest talks with the Americans, the Syrians gave no indications that they would like to progress so fast other than their very wish to reach an arrangement. The gaps are still considerable, and what is more, there are as yet no direct and creative negotiations on a senior level that could lead to an arrangement between the two sides. I would say there are signs of Syria's willingness, but there is as yet no sufficient softening on its part or a format of negotiations indicative of such a direction.

[Friedman] I wonder whether your comments are an Israeli tactic to lower expectations. At the time, al-Asad completely rejected the idea of a phased solution and sought a comprehensive and immediate Israeli withdrawal in one phase. Later, he spoke about one year, and now he is telling the Americans that he is willing to accept an Israeli withdrawal over a five-year period. The gap between this and the Israeli position is very minor. Why do we not say that Syria is making dramatic steps toward Israel when that actually is the reality?

[Savir] I do not think this is a tactic. One must take a sober look at the situation. There are positive signs, and I think—and we have also heard as much from the Americans—that there is a strategic decision on the part of the Syrians. What we have heard directly from the Syrians, however, is insufficient. When we enter substantive negotiations—and I hope this will happen soon—if indeed there is a Syrian decision to make faster progress, we will see it. I suggest that we look less at the timetable and more at the positions and that we continue telling the Syrians and the entire region that the time has come to follow the example of the Palestinians—with whom we made the breakthrough—and of the Jordanians—with whom we created a new reality—and follow in their footsteps.

Intelligence Chief on Talks With Syria, Jordan

TA1008044394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The head of the Israeli Army's Intelligence Branch says Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is waiting for a declaration from Prime Minister Rabin acknowledging Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights and even then will settle for nothing less than a complete Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 border. The head of military intelligence, Major General Uri Sagi, also told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the subject of water is likely to be the most difficult issue in negotiations with Jordan. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee say the chief of Israeli military intelligence said that Syria believes Israel will agree ultimately to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, that among the Israeli public there is support for a complete pullback. Maj. Gen. Uri Sagi referred to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as a cautious statesman, willing to prolong negotiations until a full withdrawal can be formulated with Israel.

One committee member said the intelligence chief noted that Syria is waiting for Prime Minister Rabin himself to declare—not just Foreign Minister Peres—that Syria has sovereign rights over the Golan. In any case, the intelligence assessment is that President al-Asad will agree to nothing less than a complete Israeli pullout.

On the talks with Jordan, Gen. Sagi said the issues of refugees, territorial disputes, and water are the most difficult, with water representing the greatest potential problem because of the shortage, primarily for Jordan. The intelligence chief seemed to indicate that Prime Minister Rabin's approval to increase the water supply to Jordan from the Hayarmuk stream was a good move by Israel, intended as a gesture that could also help Israel in the water negotiations. Gen. Sagi said the disputed water supplies at stake in all of the negotiations, including with Syria, represent two-thirds of all of Israel's water supply. [end recording]

Savir Meets UNRWA Official on Gaza Economy

TA1008101994 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1647 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman on 9 August]

[Text] "For the first time since 1967, the situation in the Gaza Strip is improving and becoming more stable, and is better than perceived. The pattern can and must be that the Palestinian Authority, headed by 'Arafat, will continue to develop the Strip and raise the standard of living for its residents. Economic development in Gaza is the primary test of the Autonomy. It must not be forgotten that the breakthrough in the entire region began with the change in relations between Israel and the Palestinians, and with the attempt of the Palestinians to govern their own lives."

This statement was made by Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir during his meeting today (Tuesday), 9.8.94, with UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen.

"The decisive challenge which stands before the Palestinians today is the rapid establishment of modern, efficient and supervised economic institutions. We have seen how a massive international aid effort in large parts

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of Eastern Europe failed—not because of a lack of funds or projects, but solely owing to the absence of appropriate economic institutions and efficient economic policy."

Savir added: "It is not realistic to expect that such institutions can be created overnight. Clearly, this is a protracted process, but the Palestinians must accelerate it. If it becomes clear that the Palestinians are making a serious effort to create and operate a Palestinian economic authority, then the donors should make parallel efforts to offer funding during the interim period. In such an event, it will be possible to transfer funds immediately—via bilateral assistance, the World Bank, the United Nations and the Holst Foundation, which has been created by the donor network."

Savir noted that the donors have already committed to transfer $600 million this year. To date, insufficient funds have been transferred, especially those needed for the creation of projects.

urkmen briefed Savir on UNRWA activities in Gaza and noted that, since the signing of the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, an additional $75 million have been raised—including $20 million from Saudi Arabia.

UNRWA has initiated a project promoting small business in Gaza by granting loans to entrepreneurs. This project has been a great success and about 90 percent of the loans have already been returned.

Savir encouraged Turkmen to adapt UNRWA activities to the new needs of the Palestinian Authority, based upon the Declaration of Principles.

'First' Passage of U.S. Cargo to Jordan Approved

TA0908173794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Israel's authorities today for the first time approved the transfer of cargo and equipment to Jordan via an Israeli port. The Israeli Customs today approved a request to transfer 10 containers, destined for the U.S. Embassy in Amman, through the Haifa Port. The containers will arrive at the end of the month on board a ship from New York, and will be accompanied by Israeli tax men on their way from Haifa to the Damya Bridge, where they will cross over to Jordan.

Aloni Meets With 'Abd-Rabbuh in East Jerusalem

TA1008072194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Shulamit Aloni, minister of communications, science, and the arts, conferred last night in East Jerusalem with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh to discuss cultural issues and frequencies to be assigned to the Palestinian media. Minister Aloni's spokesman said the decision to hold the meeting in East Jerusalem was merely technical.

Egyptian Oil Minister Arrives for Talks

TA1008044694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi al-Banbi has arrived in Israel for talks with his Israeli counterpart, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal. The two will discuss the building of a gas pipeline between the two countries. Al-Banbi will also hold talks today with Prime Minister Rabin.

Ministry: Danish Observers' Criticism 'Strange'

TA0908173194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The Israeli Foreign Ministry has reacted with surprise to the Danish Radio report that members of the Hebron observers force have submitted reports critical of Israel to the host governments—Denmark, Norway, and Italy. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said Israel is seriously considering recommendations made by the multinational force which left Hebron yesterday. David Ze'ev reports:

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Rafi Gamzu said he could not elaborate on the details of the recommendations being seriously considered, in his words, by Israel. The spokesman said only that they dealt with arrangements in Hebron. He called the Danish report strange, considering, he said, that the leaders of the force, including the deputy from Denmark, had stressed the cooperation with all sides in the city, including the Jewish settlers there. The Israeli spokesman said members of the force have spoken positively of the Israeli role in their conversations with the Foreign Ministry and with the media.

Radio Denmark had said the observer team submitted a highly critical report on the attitude of both the Israeli Government and army to the force. The radio said Israel was charged with responsibility for the mission's failure. Radio Denmark said that similar reports were submitted to the other two host governments, Norway and Italy.

Back in Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry spokesman conceded that the force's mandate was greatly restricted, but he said Israel believe that the team has done the best it could under the circumstances.

Officials To Update Moscow, Beijing on Peace

TA1008090494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, will leave for Moscow next week to update the Russian leadership on developments in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Jordanian peace process. Yo'av Biran, Foreign Ministry assistant director general, will go to Beijing to update the PRC Government.

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Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres decided that Bentzur and Biran will visit various European and Asian countries to update their foreign ministers on the dramatic developments in the Middle East peace process. Bentzur's trip to Moscow is of special importance, because Russia is one of the sponsors of the peace process. Bentzur, who is also deputy head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Jordan, is due to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his senior aides. From there, Bentzur is due to fly to Bern, The Hague, and Seoul to update their foreign ministers and other senior officials on the peace process.

Biran will go to China, the Philippines, and India to brief the foreign ministers and senior officials on the latest developments on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Jordanian peace tracks.

Statistics Show Lower Trade Deficit in July

TA1008101494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Aug 94 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] The trade deficit fell by a third last month to $410 million, as exports rose 3.6 percent and imports dropped 8.5 percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Exports rose to $1.34 billion from $1.29b. in June, while imports fell to $1.75b. from $1.91b.

According to the bureau, the drop in imports reflected a sharp decrease in fuel imports last month.

During the first seven months of the year, the trade gap shot up 37 percent to $4.67b. compared with the same period last year.

Exports were 7.75 percent higher and imports increased 16.3 percent.

Seasonally adjusted figures for the past three months show that exports—excluding diamonds, ships and planes—rose between 4 and 5 percent compared with the previous three months.

During that period imports were flat and the trade gap fell 6 percent.

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, rose between 3 and 4 percent. Textile and clothing exports shot up 19 percent, and rubber and plastic exports jumped 18 percent. Chemical, quarrying and mining exports rose a more moderate 5 to 6 percent.

By contrast, machine and electronics exports, which make up nearly half of industrial exports, fell 1 percent.

Diamond exports were flat, averaging $284 million a month from May to June. Agricultural exports went up 6 percent to $528m. from $497m. in the last harvesting season.

Production input imports were unchanged. There were marked increases of 17 percent in imports of nonferrous metals and of 16 percent in cloth and thread imports.

Chemical, rubber and plastic, raw material for paper production, iron and steel imports rose a more moderate 2 percent to 5 percent. By contrast, imports of components for the machinery and electronics industry were flat.

Investment goods imports, such as machinery, equipment and vehicles, shrank 8 percent, after jumping 24 percent in the first quarter of the year.

Machinery and equipment imports fell between 8 and 9 percent, while transportation equipment dropped between 5 and 6 percent.

Consumer imports averaged $246m. a month from May to July, a 2 percent decrease compared with the first third of the year.

Car and non-durable goods imports fell between 4 and 5 percent, while electric appliance, furniture and home equipment imports remained unchanged.

Stock Market Continues 'Forward March'

TA1008101094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Aug 94 p 9

[Report by Andre Lumbroso]

[Excerpt] The market continued its forward march yesterday, with rises on a broad front.

The Two-Sided Index rose 2.1 percent, the Ma'of 1.7 percent and the Karam 2.6 percent.

Total turnover was high at NIS [new Israeli shekels] 247 million. Turnover on the Karam market, including the parallel list, was slightly more than NIS 82m., more than double what it was two months ago.

The center of interest is moving toward the smaller issues of the Two-Sided and the Karam market.

In fact, there seems to be a scenario developing. The main actors on the market are the money managers and the speculators.

Once the market hit bottom, these moved primarily to the Ma'of and Two-Sided market, which seemed to offer securities that could be sold relatively easily.

The Karam, on the other hand, seemed like a trap where investors might suffer severe losses if they tried to cash in their chips. Similarly, the same investor might create unwanted price movements with relatively small purchases.

Remember the share which went up 900 percent on a single order of NIS 5,000? It made sense then to move into the blue chips.

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The market has acquired a better image among investors. The Karam has passed the 200 mark and the Two-Sided has also been steadily rising.

In such conditions, investors have felt brave enough to move slowly into the Karam market. The turnovers there have been inching up steadily over time.

The warrants are also being felt paradoxically. Some of them have very high leverage ratios, and the rises in share prices cause even sharper increases in warrants.

Some of them which were out of the money were trading for a few agorot, so share price rises had a dramatic impact on warrant prices. [passage omitted]

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Clinton Efforts To Ease World Debt Reported

JN0908195894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has urged 13 world leaders to act quickly on the international level to ease the burden of Jordan's debts. This appeal came in a letter which Clinton sent to the Paris Club of creditor countries. He said: I think that a swift world action to ease Jordan's great debt burden will be a very important factor in underlining support for the Middle East peace process.

He said it is necessary for the Jordanian people to feel the advantages of peace in a tangible way. He noted that Jordan's unsettled debts are a major obstacle to economic growth. He added: Therefore, I encourage you to act quickly and with generosity to ease Jordan's financial burden through bilateral exemptions of debts.

Clinton promised to help exempt Jordan of repaying $700 million in debts it owes to the United States.

In his letter, Clinton praised Britain's quick move to turn $90 million of Jordan's debts into a grant.

Clinton sent his letter to the leaders of Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, Canada, France, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

Israel Begins Pumping Water To Restore Share

JN0908194694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Report by Hani Shutar]

[Text] [Shutar] Israel has started pumping water from al-Yarmuk River to King 'Abdallah Canal as a first step in the process to restore Jordan's share of this river water.

Some 4 million cubic meters of water will be pumped until the end of October. This is a critical period in which the Jordan Valley is suffering water shortage because the dams providing the valley with water did not store sufficient quantities this year. The dams stored less than 50 million cubic meters.

[Jordanian Valley Authority official Awadis Sarbikyan] With the peace agreements, we managed to secure 30,000 cubic meters pumped every day from al-Yarmuk River to King 'Abdallah Canal. This quantity will be used to provide water to farmers for irrigation purposes and as drinking water via the Dayr 'Alla-Amman pipeline. Some of this water will be wasted while it is being transported, but the quantity we get is good.

[Shutar] It is worth mentioning that this was not a new pumping operation. Israel reduced the quantity of water flowing through the bypass channel of al-Yarmuk River, while the sluice gate on the Jordanian side was raised to a level that can accommodate the new increase in the quantity of water flowing in the direction of the Jordanian territory. The main objective of the new increased quantity is to provide drinking water to the capital via the Dayr 'Alla station and use the remainder for irrigation purposes. When mixed together in the Canal, this fresh water flowing from al-Yarmuk River tunnel will help desalinate the water stored in King Talal Dam. This will help improve the agricultural output this year and reduce the risk of diseases affecting the crops.

[Farmer] We are optimistic that we will get this water very soon so that we, farmers, can irrigate our land.

[Farmer] There is an increase in the quantity of water in the East Ghawr [King 'Abdallah] Canal.

[Shutar] In the past two days it was noticed that there was an increase in the quantity of water flowing through King 'Abdallah Canal from the tunnel to the outskirts of Dayr 'Alla.

Trade With Egypt To Increase; New Protocol Signed

JN1008071794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Cairo (Petra)—Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and her Egyptian counterpart Mahmud Muhammad [name, title as published] on Tuesday [9 August] signed a new protocol of commercial cooperation extending Jordanian and Egyptian exemption from customs duties to certain goods imported from each other. These include phosphates, poly-phosphates, mineral and chemical potash fertilisers, steam generating units with a maximum output of 16 tonnes per hour, rubber-casting moulds, frozen vegetables, Egyptian rice, instant coffee, blades and water meters. Dr. Khalaf said the new protocol includes amendments to a previous one concluded last February. Dr. Khalaf said the volume of trade, which is currently in favour of Egypt, stands short of expectations by both countries. Dr. Muhammad said Jordan and Egypt would increase the volume of trade. The new al-'Aqabah-Elat border crossing on trade and economic activity, Dr. Khalaf said, will contribute to promoting tourism to and from Jordan.

Citizens Happy With Direct Israel Phone Link

JN0908210594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Direct telephone calls between Jordan and Israel have saved the citizens' time and effort. The direct telephone lines have been very busy during the past two days. The Telecommunications Corporation [TCC] will charge 1.2 Jordanian dinars [JD] per minute for both nighttime and daytime telephone calls.

[Begin recording] [Jordan Television correspondent Muna al-Rawashidah] The telephone lines between Jordan and Israel have been under great pressure two days after the first telephone call between His Majesty

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King Husayn and the Israeli president. This call officially inaugurated the first direct telephone line between the two countries. Telephone calls were previously made through other countries. This great pressure on the telephone lines between Jordan and Israel is because a large number of Jordanian citizens have telephoned their relatives in Israel and in the occupied territories.

[Citizen, making a telephone call] Hello, hello. Who is speaking? 'Abd, how are you?

[Citizen] Yesterday, my relatives telephoned my grandmother in Bayt Safafa.

[Citizen] In the past, we used to make telephone calls via the United States. We used to wait for a call for one or two hours. Now, calls can be made directly.

[Citizen] This is the first step and everyone is very happy about it and about making telephone calls with the world and Israel. In the past, these telephone calls used to cost huge amounts of money when we sought our relatives' opinion on a particular problem or idea. In fact, these are very great efforts. This is the result of the efforts made by officials, led by his majesty.

[Al-Rawashidah] The Jordanian citizen can directly call any city in Israel or in the occupied territories after dialing the code for Israel, which is 972, as well as the city code. These will be low-charge calls.

[TCC Engineer 'Abd-al-Karim Misbah] Through its specialized technical departments, the TCC studied the solutions and the available means for the direct linkage. The TCC also studied several alternatives. The available solution was to direct calls through an intermediary exchange. This was followed by holding sessions with the Israeli side, during which technical, financial, and accounting details were studied. During the discussions, it was agreed to use the intermediary exchange, as a first phase, to convey the telephone calls.

Moreover, the TCC studied the charges which will be collected from citizens for making the calls. It decided that JD 1.2 [per minute] is an appropriate charge, especially since the TCC will have to pay additional charges to the intermediary. For this reason, it was decided not to reduce charges for night calls. In other words, day and night charges will be the same.

[Al-Rawashidah] As for making telephone calls between the two countries through post offices and telephone booths, this is expected to begin in the next few days when the pressure on the telephone lines subsides. [end recording]

AL-DUSTUR Praises King-Rabin Meeting

JN0908140894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Another New Day in the Middle East"]

[Text] Yesterday's meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in al-'Aqabah, as well as the opening of the first border crossing on the Israeli-Jordanian border, were two major political events of direct impact and significance as noted in the joint news conference held after the meeting.

This is the first time that an Israeli prime minister has ever paid a visit to Jordan. This in itself is a major event, not to mention its practical implications represented in the fact that the Middle East region has started to move from a stage of hostility and hatred to a stage of hopeful normalcy and peace, of which the region has long been deprived.

This meeting, attended by the U.S. secretary of state, came within the context of a peaceful development destined to materialize on the ground into relations of good neighborliness and abstention from making threats of war. This situation will later develop into a state of peace that will reflect on the present and future of this region, which is looking forward to boosting its stability, enhancing the prosperity of its peoples, and utilizing its capabilities in construction, investment, and development.

Furthermore, the opening of the first Israeli-Jordanian border crossing yesterday confirms that peace has started to take shape on the ground, and that this track—reactivated forcefully only a few weeks ago—will lead to tangible results far more significant than the content of texts and much more effective than all speeches and slogans, not to mention that it creates an irreversible situation.

Yesterday, Jordan reiterated its serious commitment to peace and its relentless resolve to proceed along this long path. This reiteration came through both the opening of the crossing point in Wadi al-'Arabah and the reception of the Israeli prime minister in al-'Aqabah. This confirms Jordan's dedication to peace and its actual and honest will to attain this noble goal.

Jordan, while proceeding with steady steps and goodwill on the road to peace and while viewing the future with open eyes and minds, hopes that the fruits of this peace will be proportional to the pioneering effort of His Majesty King Husayn, and that these fruits will spread in the entire region which suffered, in excess of its endurance, from war, tension, and destruction. The region is now looking forward to a secure and prosperous tomorrow and a future that deserves to be defended by the present and future generations.

Columnist Argues for End of Aqaba 'Blockade'

JN0708103494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 94 p 6

[Column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Sunday's Economic Pulse"]

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[Text] The inspection by the American fleet in the northern part of the Red Sea of all merchandise imported to Jordan via Aqaba will be replaced as of Aug. 25 by an easier sort of inspection, to be conducted by an independent auditor, Lloyds Register, after arrival of vessels to the port and upon discharging the goods.

This is definitely a positive step which will save time, efforts and money, and will remove an incentive for major shipping lines to skip Aqaba from their regular schedule to avoid harassment and delay imposed by the American fleet, ostensibly to prevent an alleged violation by Jordan to the trade sanctions against Iraq imposed since August 1990.

This good step is not good enough, taking into account the improvement in Jordanian-American relations, the acceleration which took place in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations and the achievements realised so far under the auspices of the United States of America, not only because the inspection of goods in Aqaba by Lloyds Register will cost some $2 million a month, to be borne by the importers and added to the cost of imported goods, but also because the operation in itself is humiliating to the government and people of Jordan.

The only convincing explanation of the American insistence on the blockade against Aqaba was that the American administration does not trust the Jordanian government. But, what took place in the White House Rose Garden on July 25, and in the chamber of Congress the following day, should be more than enough to change this attitude, and remove any mistrust that prevailed in the past. It is not reasonable nor acceptable to expect the Government of Jordan to carry on with the peace process, while it is still distrusted and singled out from all governments in the region to be subjected to harsh measures.

In addition, we cannot help believing that the blockade imposed on the Jordanian Port of Aqaba is not meant against Iraq. It is common knowledge that a substantial part of Jordanian imports come through Lebanese, Syrian, and Turkish ports. Those who want to smuggle goods to Iraq—if any—do not have to import those goods through Aqaba. All that they need is to import the goods via Latakia in Syria to avoid American inspection and may save extra cost in the process.

Since the blockade is simply a means of political pressure on Jordan to achieve political ends and to oblige Jordan to behave politically in a certain desired manner, it is high time to put an end to this uncalled-for pressure, and to open a new and clean chapter in the American-Jordanian relations, and to restore mutual confidence. This means that the services of Lloyds Register must be terminated before they start.

The Americans are definitely aware that the Iraqi borders are wide-open with Syria, Turkey and Iran, without any sort of inspection. The problem of Iraq is that it does not have money any more to pay for its imports, not that it has any difficulty in buying things if it can pay for them.

More important is the fact the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples are part of one Arab nation. It is not conceivable nor morally and nationally acceptable to be asked to normalise our economic relations with Israel before we are able to normalise our economic relations with Iraq. The sanctions are not only hurting the weaker groups of the Iraqi population, they are hurting the Jordanian economy as well. Iraq used to buy 25 per cent of all Jordanian exports. Jordan cannot prosper economically as long as the sanctions are in place. THE NEW YORK TIMES has observed in a recent editorial: Sanctions against Iraq should not continue forever.

Jordan met the American demands, went extra miles in its peace process with Israel, and took huge risks. It is high time to find some understanding and appreciation of its difficulties. The United Nations has nothing to do with the whole episode. It is America that created the problem and is now able to solve it to the satisfaction of the Jordanian people, if the friendship and goodwill of the Jordanians are sought.

Al-Majali Meets Socialist International Official

JN0808115394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning (Hans Juergen Veshenvisky), head of the Socialist International's Middle East Committee, who toured the region and visited Syria, and Gaza in the self-rule area, and Israel, in addition to Jordan.

(Veshenvisky) explained to Dr. al-Majali the results of his meetings during this tour and the role the Socialist International hopes to play in order to enhance the Middle East peace march. He welcomed the Washington Declaration, and stressed that the Socialist International believes that the development on the Jordanian-Israeli track gives a positive momentum to the other tracks, and moves the region closer to stability, security, and peace that is comprehensive, just, and lasting.

Dr. al-Majali welcomed the Socialist International's efforts to mobilize the peace-loving forces in order to realize broader understanding and better ground between the countries of the region and the EC states. He hailed and welcomed the idea of a meeting that will be held in Brussels before the end of this year, which will comprise representatives of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, and north African states, and the representatives of the Socialist International's parties in Europe. The meeting seeks a dialogue to reach results beneficial for all.

The prime minister emphasized that democratic Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn,

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respects and appreciates all political schools and trends, especially those which aim to serve humanity and end human suffering.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Jazi, minister of state at the Prime Ministry.

Timing of PNA Visit Said 'Deliberate'

JN1008082094 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Unsuccessful Visit of Palestinian Authority Delegation"]

[Text] The low-level reception accorded to a delegation from the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], which included PNA members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Faysal al-Husayni, has reflected some of the Jordanian dissatisfaction with the angry Palestinian reaction toward the third point in the Washington Declaration. This point deals with Jordan's role in overseeing Islamic sites in the city of Jerusalem.

According to AL-BILAD's information, the Palestinian delegation sought a high-level meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, or Prime Minister al-Majali. However, the meeting with [Minister of State for Foreign Affairs] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan did not dispel Palestinian fears toward the issue of Jerusalem.

Al-Hasan reiterated Jordan's declared position toward Jerusalem, stressing that the Washington Declaration restates a long-standing fact and that Jordan supports Palestinian efforts to regain sovereignty over East Jerusalem, since it is a Palestinian territory that was occupied in 1967, to which Resolution 242 is applicable.

Jordanian sources have expressed amazement at the timing of the visit by the Palestinian delegation, which knew beforehand that the entire Jordanian state is busy with Secretary Christopher's visit, the opening of the al-'Aqabah-Elat border crossing, and the Husayn-Rabin summit in the city of al-'Aqabah.

These sources did not rule out the possibility that the timing of the visit was deliberate so as not to make progress in the talks as a prelude to a political escalation between the two sides.

Islamic Liberation Party Members Detained

MM0908122194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Liberation Party Announces Arrest of Two Memebrs in Jordan"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—'Ata Abu-al-Rushtah, official spokesman for the Islamic Liberation Party in Jordan, has stated that security services arrested a party member, Tahir 'Abd-al-Hamid, at midnight last Sunday [7 August] following an anti-peace process speech he had delivered.

The spokesman said that Jordanian authorities arrested party member Salim al-Ja'fari over a week ago and that he is still in custody.

Disagreement Noted in Muslim Brotherhood Over House

JN0908130194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that a sharp disagreement is taking place among Muslim Brotherhood leaders on whether the movement's deputies in the House of Representatives should withdraw from, or stay in the House.

Informed sources said the hawkish wing wants the deputies to resign from the House of Representatives so that the Muslim Brotherhood deputies will not contribute to providing legitimacy to the Jordanian-Israeli reconciliation procedures.

As for the dovish wing, which seems to have the stronger position, it calls for keeping the deputies in place because their withdrawal would be a sort of political suicide for the Muslim Brotherhood, in addition to the fact that it would facilitate rather than obstruct the settlement process.

The informed sources told AL-MAJD that something is being concocted against the Muslim Brotherhood, and several government quarters are waiting for the opportunity to pounce on their movement.

Muslim Brotherhood Official on Peace, Dissolution

JN1008101894 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood Controller General 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Khatib] You are opposed to the peace negotiations. However, the peace train is moving and no one can stop it now. What do you have to tell your masses and supporters in this regard?

[Al-Dhunaybat] We are opposed to a settlement and reconciliation with the Zionist enemy because we have a call and a message. We advocate Islam in its comprehensive sense. We have responsibilities toward our Muslim brothers. We take pride in this country. Our respect for our country and religion is part of our principles in which we take pride. We are against the settlement in all its forms and parties, because we proceed from a doctrine and a necessity. In our book, opposition is based on the fact that our conflict with the Jews did not begin in 1948 when the enemy state was established. The conflict began when Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, emigrated to Medina. The prophet concluded treaties with the Jews, which they violated. So our conflict is one of culture and existence, and not a conflict over borders. We tell our peoples: If the first wall—the official regimes—is brought down, we have the other wall of

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popular opposition and rejection on all levels and by all sectors, to resist the Zionist scheme and achieve the Islamic plan.

[Al-Khatib] Apparently, the opposition in general, and the Muslim Brotherhood in particular, are incapable of stopping the settlement train?

[Al-Dhunaybat] Yes, we are incapable of doing that, but we can prevent the effects of the settlement and face its obligations. The Egyptian people, who have rejected normalization with the Zionist enemy, even at the level of art, are a good example for us.

[Al-Khatib] What are your mechanisms and programs to face the results of the negotiations?

[Al-Dhunaybat] We proceed from the concept of promoting virtue and prohibiting vice. What is happening, from our Islamic view, is wrong. We try to prevent it by all of the peaceful means that are available to us legally. We, as citizens and as a group, feel that we are targeted by the peace requirements. We have the right to reject all schemes by all legal means. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatib] In light of the quick developments in the peace process, do you expect the Muslim Brotherhood to be dissolved as a result of its interference in political issues?

[Al-Dhunaybat] The Muslim Brotherhood members have been allowed to operate since 1946. This decision has been highlighted more than once. They have participated in the government and joined Parliament. They demonstrated against the Baghdad Pact. They did not just begin political activities a few months ago, and their understanding of Islam is a comprehensive one. Since 1946, we have been treated as an Islamic group that does not distinguish between religion and politics, and we do not separate politics and religion. If this is called politics, we call it Islam.

[Al-Khatib] In spite of this, do you expect the group to be dissolved?

[Al-Dhunaybat] We do not expect this for several reasons. First, because we have not deviated, we have not adopted a new policy, and no one can say that we have changed anything. Second, we are part of the society, and we have a long history, and we have a role in entrenching national unity and the security and stability of this country. We shoulder a substantial part of this responsibility, and I think that His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Prince Hasan had mentioned this more than once and in more than one meeting.

All government institutions recognizes this opposition and its right. We are governed by the law of God and the basic constants of this country, such as national unity, and avoiding violence, which we do not approve of from any source, weather from regimes or the popular movements that carry out violence in retaliation for the regime's policies. Therefore, I do not think that it is in the interest of anyone to even consider the dissolution of the group, and there are no fears that such a step will be taken.

[Al-Khatib] There is talk of a deal between you and the government according to which you soften your attack against the government and the negotiations in return for not dissolving the group or threatening to do so.

[Al-Dhunaybat] We have heard about such deals several times. During the elections, they spoke about a deal. When the one-man one-vote law was decided, they spoke about a deal. We do not make deals with the government. We work on the basis of ideological constants and political principles. We may agree with the government on many political issues or we may differ with it. Our approach is to promote virtue and prohibits vice. If we agree with the government on certain issues, we will support it; and if we differ with the government, it should excuse us because we act in accordance with our constants. There is no deal with the government as some political quarters claim.

IAF, Muslim Brotherhood Officially Separate

MM0508164094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Official Separation Between Brotherhood and Islamic Action Front in Jordan"]

[Excerpts] Amman—Separation was officially announced yesterday between the Islamic Action Front [IAF] party and the Muslim Brotherhood group in Jordan amid denial from the two sides that this is attributable to the Jordanian-Israeli accord or any disagreement between them. Both the group's new general controller, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid Dhunaybat, and the party's official spokesman, deputy Hamzah Mansur, have stressed that this separation has no political dimensions.

Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, the party's secretary general, had announced the acceptance of Dr. Dhunaybat's resignation from the chairmanship of the party's shura council and from membership of the political bureau and the party as a whole.

Dr. Dhunaybat, who was recently elected general controller of the Muslim Brotherhood group in Jordan, announced that his resignation is not attributable to disagreements or any other dimensions.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said: "When I was elected general controller of the Muslim Brotherhood group, I immediately, on the same day, submitted my resignation from the chairmanship of the shura council and membership of the IAF party, because the responsibility of the group's general controller requires full concentration. Besides, the resignation is designed to reinforce the party's independence from the group and ensure that there there is no financial or administrative link between them." [passage omitted]

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For his part, Deputy Hamzah Mansur, member of the Front's shura council, has said that as a result of Dhunaybat's election as general controller of the Muslim Brotherhood group and the numerous burdens this post is going to put on his shoulder, it is clear that he—and he is the object of respect and appreciation—cannot combine the shura council chairmanship and Front membership on the one hand and the post of general controller of the Muslim Brotherhood group on the other.

Mansur denied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there are any disagreements or political dimensions behind Dhunaybat's resignation. He said, "God forbid. That is inconceivable. Dhunaybat is the object of everyone's appreciation and respect." [passage omitted]

Separation Praised

JN0908054494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Aug 94 pp 32, 24

["The Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "The Party and the Brotherhood"]

[Text] It is quite logical to separate the Muslim Brotherhood from the Islamic Action Front [IAF]. This step indeed is long overdue. Such organizational and political separation should have taken place when the IAF was established as a licensed political party. The Muslim Brotherhood, however, remained a charitable and social body from the legal point of view.

While the law prohibits political activity by charitable bodies, the Muslim Brotherhood continued its political activities illegally. At the same time, people continued to view the IAF as the other face of the Brotherhood and maintained that power actually rested with the Brotherhood, and not the IAF. The Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF managed to absorb and contain all the problems arising from this duality. Following these developments, it has become necessary to clarify things and for people to know that the Muslim Brotherhood is a charitable and social body that is not entitled to engage in politics and that the IAF is a completely independent political party that abides by all party-related laws.

The claim that the new controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood has stepped down due to his preoccupations and his inability to hold two important posts simultaneously is not convincing. Obviously, the distinction between the two parts has become all the more clear. Developments in our country and in the region have compelled the IAF, as a political party, to be more flexible, while the Muslim Brotherhood, which is linked to a world leadership, maintains its hard-line position.

Carrying two melons in one hand is impossible. The IAF should either express itself as a political party that maneuvers, advances and retreats, and plays the democratic game as a whole, or melt into the Muslim Brotherhood. Similarly, the Muslim Brotherhood should either become a licensed political party or distance itself from politics and confine its activities to charitable, social, and religious affairs.

The controller general's relinquishment of his duties within the IAF indicates that two viewpoints have reached a point of divergence and that it is impossible to continue to confuse the party with the Brotherhood. Inevitably, this distinction will reflect on many things, including the members of the House of Representatives. The question is whether they are the representatives of the IAF or the Brotherhood.

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Dallul Says Negotiating Tracks To Remain United

NC0908173994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that separating the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks is out of the question.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ, Dallul added: Our strength and capabilities lie in keeping the two tracks united.

Dallul said Syria and Lebanon are not isolated in the peace process.

On another issue, he emphasized that it is impossible for the Lebanese Army to clash with the Resistance in the south because that would be a service to Israel.

Regarding aid to the Lebanese Army, Minister Dallul said that no such aid has been received or will be received. He declared: We are operating within our budget. Dallul said the Army's high morale, however, compensates for the lack of material things.

In answer to another question, he pointed out that the current government will stay in power until it completes the successful achievements it has already begun.

Hizballah, Amal on Christopher's 'Suspect Role'

MM0908145194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah and Amal Condemn Christopher's 'Suspect Position'"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Hizballah's Central Information Unit has announced that the leaderships of Hizballah and Amal Movement in the south held a coordination meeting "and condemned the Zionist continuous criminal action against the villages of the south and western al-Biqa', targeting residential buildings." They called on the Lebanese people to "stand firm and confront and frustrate the designs of the enemy and his agents." They appealed to "the international community and its institutions to take a daring stand condemning the terrorism of the usurping Zionist entity and exerting pressure for ending the siege of the people of Yuhmur al-Shaqif." The conferees discussed the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region "and the suspect role he is playing," and concluded that "such visits by the U.S. delegation, which defends the Zionist enemy's crimes, do not concern our people and that the resistance and its people are greater than its [the delegation's] files and designs."

Al-Firzili: Palestinian Settlement 'Unacceptable'

MM0908124994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Ilyas al-Firzili by 'Ali Qasim Ballut in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ballut] Do you believe security has been established in Lebanon?

[Al-Firzili] I believe that security is now better than during any other period in Lebanon's contemporary history, taking into consideration the presence of the Israeli occupation and some of the incidents that occur as a result of this occupation. However, internal security is established and is almost better than security in European states and the United States. [passage omitted]

[Ballut] With regard to the Palestinians, what is the state's plan vis-a-vis the Palestinians, and is there any intention of settling them?

[Al-Firzili] One of our criticisms of the Gaza-Jericho agreement is that it did not take account of the Palestinian dispora issue, which has caused concern for the Lebanese and Lebanon, which offered to the Palestinian what no other Arab state has offered. It has offered blood, the country's destruction, and money. But in any peace process in the region, the time has come for the Palestinian people to exercise their rights. Some people say that Israel is cautiously viewing the repatriation of the 1948 Palestinians, because it does not want Palestinian population density in the West Bank. This matter is to do with Palestinian-Israeli decisionmaking.

As for Lebanon, our Constitution is against settlement and against any form of settlement. And the Palestinians should have the honor to belong to their own new state and they should be given the opportunity to do so. As far as we are concerned, settlement is unacceptable in form and substance. And any settlement plan imposed in Lebanon or on the Lebanese will lead to new civil wars the price for which would be paid by the Palestinians.

[Ballut] What is Hizballah's influence on the Lebanese scene, especially as it is now represented in the Chamber of Deputies?

[Al-Firzili] There is an Israeli occupation in the south. And that the resistance movement, which the West calls terrorism, was set up in 1982 after the Israeli invasion. The resistance is the result of the occupation. The Lebanese state believes that the resistance would disappear when the occupation disappears. What is required is to eliminate the factors that led to its emergence.

And as there is a plan to implement peace in the region, the real prelude to this is the implementation of Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

'Source' Rejects Declaration of Principles

MM0908120794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Tariq Tarshishi and Muhammad Sadiq: "Government Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Lebanon Will Not Sign Agreement of Principles With Israel"]

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[Excerpt] Beirut, Washington—While well-informed U.S. sources have indicated that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher could make monthly tours of the Middle East to reactivate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, a prominent government source in Beirut has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Lebanon will not sign a declaration of principles for peace with Israel, but it will sign a peace agreement or no-peace agreement. The source added: "Lebanon does not need a declaration of principles. Because we do not trust the Israelis, and we will not make the same mistake that the Palestinians and the Jordanians have made. The Palestinians signed a declaration of principles, and here they are engaging in arduous negotiations over every single clause in that declaration. The Jordanians have begun to experience the same situation."

The source added: "Lebanon is not compelled to sign a declaration of principles with Israel only to engage later in negotiations with it over every single clause. Besides, the these negotiations might provoke confusion at the domestic level, as every clause will need its own agreement with Israel."

The source pointed out that Lebanon entered the talks for the sake of implementing Resolution 425, stipulating Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territory. So this resolution does not need a declaration of principles to implement.

The source expressed his belief that Syria will not sign a declaration of principles with Israel either, but will sign a peace agreement. The source cited recently-announced stands by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad which reflect this orientation. Because the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan or from southern Lebanon can be conducted only under an agreement, not a declaration of principles.

The Lebanese source said that Israel's repeated claim that Lebanon is unable to control its security, that it does not enjoy independence and sovereignty, and that it is a "Syrian protectorate," as Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and other Israeli officials always say, is designed to drive a wedge between Lebanon and Syria. The source said that Lebanon and Syria are agreed on everything related to the peace process and cannot differ, whatever the Israelis' attempts to cause dispute between them. [passage omitted]

Israeli Overflights, Shelling Reported in South

NC0908193794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The Israelis shelled the areas surrounding Yuhmur today as the town enters its third week of siege. Meanwhile, enemy planes overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, staging mock raids.

Mock Raids, Bombardment Reported

NC1008081994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The heights of Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been coming under sporadic 155-mm artillery bombardments from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah since 0915 today.

Israeli military aircraft flew over the Iqlim al-Tuffah and East Sidon areas at 0800 today, staging mock raids.

Last night, the Israeli bombardment targeted Jabal al-Rafi', Nab' al-Tasah, and al-Luwayzah and Mlita hills and continued intermittently until early this morning. The bombardment was accompanied by low-altitude flights over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Hizballah on Resistance Attacks, Syrian Support

NC1008072394 Paris AFP in English 2130 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Beirut, Aug 9 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah on Tuesday [9 August] vowed to continue and even step up its attacks against Israel in south Lebanon, and said it had Syria's backing.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres previously credited Syria with the return to calm after an eruption of violence along the Israeli-Lebanese border last week.

"The next days will prove that the resistance will continue its operations at the same pace, even at a quicker pace," a Hizballah source told the newspaper AL-NAHAR here.

"Our Syrian brothers have told us in the past that the resistance is a right which our people must exercise so long as its territory remains occupied.

"There is no sign of any change in their position nor any new reason why they would change their position," he said.

On Sunday US Secretary of State Warren Christopher voiced concern about Hizballah with Syria during his Middle East peace mission.

But on the same day Hizballah chief Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah said from Beirut that his fundamentalist movement would continue its fight against Israel until "not a single Jew remains in Palestine."

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in guerrilla ambushes on Saturday and Hizballah fired Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, after an earlier Israeli missile attack killed eight civilians in Lebanon.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, supports Hizballah politically.

Arab League Chief Pledges Support to Lebanon

NC0908190594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the Arab League backs Lebanon's

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construction efforts, supports its position in the peace talks, and denounces Israeli attacks against it. The Arab League wants to see Lebanon restore its entire occupied land in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425, he added. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he will ask Arab countries to offer Lebanon all the material and political support it needs in the face of Israeli aggression.

Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, speaking following a meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today, said that resistance is a legitimate right and it will continue until Israel withdraws from Lebanon. Instead of asking for guarantees concerning Lebanese resistance, Israel should stop its military operations against Lebanon, he stated.

Birri said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will get in touch with Arab countries and ask them to provide Lebanon with the assistance it was promised at the Arab summit in Morocco and the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Damascus last year.

LF Leader Ja'ja' Faces Death Penalty

NC0908173394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Judge Fawzi Abu-Murad, Beirut's appeals prosecutor, has issued a brief in connection with the assassination of Dr. Ilyas al-Zayik in al-Ashrafiyah in 1989. He referred it to Beirut's investigating judge, 'Abdallah Bitar, for a decision.

We have learned that the 10-page brief demands the death penalty for Dr. Samir Ja'ja', commander of the defunct Lebanese Forces [LF] Party.

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Leadership Said To Favor Return of Likud, Baker

JN1008083194 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Prominent Palestinian Opposition Leader Cites Khaddam: Ideal Situation for Syria Return of Likud and Baker"]

[Text] A prominent leader in the Palestinian opposition has revealed to AL-BILAD the truth about the Syrian position on the negotiating process in the wake of the Oslo accord between Israel and the PLO and the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel.

The Palestinian leader says the Syrians are not in a hurry to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations. The Syrians think the current U.S. Administration is a purely "Israeli" administration, and that it does not want to give Syria any regional role in the current settlement. They also think the presence of Rabin in the Israeli Cabinet does not serve the slow process they want.

The Palestinian leader says he heard Syrian Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam say the ideal negotiating situation for Syria is for the Likud to assume power again in Israel and for the Republicans, specifically former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, to rule the United States. Baker plans to run in the 1996 elections. During his shuttle tours in 1991 prior to the Madrid conference, Baker had recognized "Syria's higher regional interests."

Implementation of UN Resolutions Urged for Peace

JN0908145994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Guaranteeing rights and dignity for everybody is both an objective and a condition for attaining peace. This is what al-Asad's Syria has always asserted. It has become clear to the international political circles and world public opinion that this is the only principle that can achieve peace and guarantee security and stability in the region. After decades of wars and destruction and despite Israel's repeated attempts to circumvent the essence of peace, reality's only face has remained unchanged, that is, the need to regain the usurped rights and occupied territories as the only way to achieve a lasting peace that can convince all parties in terms of justice, comprehensiveness, and international law.

The Syrian Arab polices have always made the necessary clarification of this reality out of Syria's eagerness to make the peace process successful and to guarantee its continuation. It is out of the question to ask any nation whose territories are occupied and whose rights are usurped to make peace at a time when the aggressor and occupier is still occupying land and committing aggression. What kind of peace will that be?

Some people who believe that they can replace reality by dividing and circumventing it will be shocked by the results because they will be void of true peace and cannot maintain the required stability and security. What is taking place in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories is evidence of that following the Gaza-Jericho accord, whose signatories believed they could persuade the people to obtain some of their rights and make a stable peace. But the mirror reflected another picture which includes clashes, bloodshed, and a rejection of the lack of justice and respect for international laws and resolutions on the peace process.

Syria has always stressed the need to implement UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 calling for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories. Only then can peace last and convince the region's peoples and world public opinion of its soundness. Otherwise, peace will remain an illusion, an allegation, and a circumvention of the essence of peace. This cannot make or lead to peace.

U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and the U.S. Administration, the principal sponsor of the peace process, know that Syria is serious in supporting peace efforts and is clear in its commitment to just and comprehensive peace based on respect for rights and the retrieval of all the occupied territories by implementing the UN resolutions on which the peace process was founded. A full application of these resolutions will meet the international community's unanimous desire for the establishment of just and lasting peace in the region.

Need for 'Clear Israeli Commitment' Seen

JN1008063894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on Syria's serious position, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has proven, in word and deed, its serious position on the peace process. During the visit of the U.S. secretary, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed this serious Syrian attitude in a clear signal from him that the required peace in the Middle East is that which rests on the foundations of the peace process since the Madrid conference.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the peace process could have made headway toward its objective, based on the Madrid foundations and the relevant UN resolutions, had Israel demonstrated a serious, clear, and committed position, the same as the Syrian position.

The paper notes the great contradiction felt by Secretary Christopher between the Syrian and Israeli stands and the responsibility of Israel's intransigence for obstructing the peace process. Christopher said, during his visit to occupied Jerusalem, that President Hafiz al-Asad showed great seriousness about his desire to pursue the peace process.

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AL-THAWRAH concludes: Peace cannot be achieved by words and partial solutions and deals. Rather, peace requires a serious stand based on a firm commitment to the realities and foundations on which the peace process has been based since the very beginning, foremost among these is the fact that the full return to the 4 June 1967 borders is the key to a comprehensive solution that no peace can dispense with.

Under the headline "Israel's Obstacle to Just Peace," AL-BA'TH says: As was expected, the U.S. secretary of state returned to Washington without announcing any progress in the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and without revealing the substance of the talks he held in the region.

The paper adds: U.S. diplomacy is still clashing with Israeli intransigence and the Rabin government's continued attempts to circumvent the essence and foundations of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH notes that Rabin and others are still emphasizing the wide gap between Syria and Israel. This emphasis is in line with the Israeli Government's abandonment of the principles on which the peace process was launched.

The paper says the U.S. secretary's announcement that he will return shortly to the region will not add anything new to the required progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks if this return is not accompanied by a clear Israeli commitment to the peace initiative.

AL-BA'TH concludes: On the Lebanese track, the Rabin government should immediately implement Resolution 425, which stipulates an unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Before that, the Rabin government should stop the series of attacks on the defenseless southern villages. As for the Syrian track, Syria, which has confirmed its seriousness toward the peace process, will not heed Israel's maneuvers, which are aimed at diverting the peace process from its real objectives.

All that is left for the Clinton administration to do is to remove the Israeli obstacle, based on the role of honest broker and partner.

Under the headline "Full Withdrawal," TISHRIN underlines Warren Christopher's statement at the conclusion of his recent Middle East tour that there is a considerable distance that must be covered to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. This statement dismissed the reports on the eve of his tour that there would be positive results after Christopher's talks with the Israeli officials, who had spread a false atmosphere of optimism.

TISHRIN asserts that through these positions, Israel is trying to confine the discussions on the ways to achieve progress on the Syrian track to procedural and minor issues and avoid discussing substantive and major issues.

Apparently, Israel does not plan to withdraw. Therefore, it is reversing facts and seeking to rearrange priorities to serve its policy of keeping and controlling the Arab territory, dividing the solution, concluding separate deals, and asking the Arabs to adopt its security pretexts and conditions regarding a settlement. All these pretexts and conditions prejudice Arab rights, give away their territories, and give Israel control over Arab resources.

The Madrid conference formula represents a real and objective framework to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. There is no doubt that Israel's repeated attempts to abort this formula will definitely keep the stalemate in the peace process.

TISHRIN concludes: Each time Israel shirks its commitments and the obligations of peace, it reasserts that it is not concerned about security and peace in the region and about the principles of the peace process. Israel will continue to be responsible for the consequences of this policy—turmoil and lack of stability in the region.

Syria's position is the opposite of Israel's. Syria has been seriously seeking to achieve a just peace and ensure peace and stability in the region. President al-Asad reiterated this during his talks with the U.S. secretary.

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Afghanistan

Probe Into Correspondent's Murder Ordered

BK0808110694 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 8 (AFP)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has ordered an investigation into the July murder of an Afghan journalist, the president's special envoy Mas'ud Khalili said here Monday.

"We have initiated the investigation following a request from Amnesty International," Khalili told reporters here.

The journalist, Mir Was Jalil, 25, who was working with the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) in Kabul, was abducted on July 29 by unidentified gunmen while returning from an interview with Rabbani's rival Golboddin Hekmatyar.

His body was found the next day in Kabul's Chelsitoon suburb, which is mainly controlled by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] forces.

A Hezb statement in Pakistan blamed the killing on Rabbani's secret service, saying the motive for the murder was to descredit Hekmatyar's party.

Khalili acknowledged the murder took place in the Hezb-controlled area, but said evidence was still needed to determine the identity of Jalil's murderers.

"We have some clues," he said, but refused to share them with the press.

The Hezb-e Eslami in a statement last week also announced it would cooperate with the investigation.

Reportage on Clashes With Opposition

Militia Attack Said Repulsed

LD0808152994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1330 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] An attack by the Golboddin-Dostam militia was aborted last night in Khowt-e Show. A source of the country's armed forces reported to BIA that last night the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful attack on the positions of the Islamic army and the mojahedin. Seven militia were killed and 15 others injured.

Militia Positions Said Seized

LD0908165694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] During a mopping operation by the mojahedin and the Islamic army around Dowshi, four strong positions of the Dostam-Golboddin militias were seized.

A source in the armed forces told BIA that during a successful operation by the Armed Forces [words indistinct] four strong positions of the Dostam-Golboddin militias were seized [words indistinct] a number of the militias' light and heavy weapons were also seized.

Rockets Reportedly Kill 21

LD0908162494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia targeted 25 rockets at Kabul. A source at Kabul garrison command told BIA that the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia fired 25 rockets into residential areas and a civilian public utility installation at noon today. As a result of this savage attack, 21 Kabul residents became martyrs. The rockets also caused material damage.

Explosions at Airbase Reported

LD0908153194 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Bagram Airbase, which is the only base of the hireling coalition's Air Force, was shaken the night before last by heavy explosions. Quoting a jehadi source in Bagram District, a Message of Freedom correspondent reports that the explosions started at 2030 and continued with full intensity until 2300. The source added that as a result of the explosion a large ammunition and fuel depot belonging to the hireling coalition's air force was destroyed. Precise reports on the loss of life and damage caused have not yet been received.

Similarly, three day ago explosions took place in an ammunition depot at Bagram Airport where they continued for about three hours. So far no report has been received on the cause of the explosions.

Bangladesh

'Controversial' Writer Leaves Dhaka for Europe

BK1008045594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0346 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] DHAKA, Aug 10 (AFP)—Controversial feminist writer Taslima Nasreen, whose execution has been demanded by Muslim fundamentalists, has left Bangladesh and is on her way to a European country, newspaper reports and diplomatic sources here Wednesday [10 August] said.

The daily Al Mojadded, quoting official sources, said Nasreen was believed to have left Bangladesh early Tuesday on a plane with the assistance of a Norwegian diplomat in Dhaka.

It quoted immigration officials as saying that they had no information about the report.

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"I can only tell you that Nasreen is no longer in Bangladesh," a Dhaka-based western diplomat said when contacted by AFP. He gave no details.

Officials at the home (interior) and foreign affairs ministries declined to confirm or deny the reports. There was no telephone response from Nasreem's Dhaka flat.

Two small fundamentalist groups put a price of 50,000 taka (1,250 dollars) on Nasreen's head after she was quoted in a Calcutta daily, The Statesman, as saying the Koran should be revised and brought up to date, to meet the needs of modern women. She denies having made the remarks.

She emerged from two months of hiding last week to face charges of offending Muslim religious feelings, and was given immediate bail. If convicted, she faces two years' hard labour, a fine or both.

Nasreen, 32, a doctor-turned-writer, is the author of several works, the most prominent of which, "Lajja" ("Shame") describes persecution of the Hindu minority in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

The furore surrounding Nasreen polarised Bangladesh, pitching secular groups against a vociferous 13-party alliance of fundamentalists and rightwingers, who clamoured for Nasreen's head and the introduction of tough laws on blasphemy.

In Bangkok, airlines sources said that Nasreen flew early Tuesday from Dhaka to the Thai capital.

A Bangkok-based diplomat whose embassy was aware of Nasreen's flight indicated she had already gone on to another destination.

He declined to give any details on what he described as a "sensitive matter," other than to say categorically, "She is not in Thailand.

Finance Minister's PRC Visit Viewed

BK0908144194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Finance Minister Saifur Rahman returned to Dhaka yesterday after concluding a week-long visit to China. For various reasons, the finance minister's visit was of special importance to bilateral relations between Dhaka and Beijing. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries is gradually expanding and becoming multifaceted; thus observers regard any high-level visits between the two countries as significant.

The finance minister's statements show that this impression is not mistaken. Speaking with reporters at Zia International Airport upon his return from China, the finance minister said that China will soon dispatch a high-level fact finding mission to Bangladesh to look into participating in the construction of the Rupsa Bridge in Khulna. Construction of this bridge over the Rupsa River has long been sought by the people of Khulna; it is essential for the economic development of the Khulna region. Plans to build this bridge were made a long time ago but were never implemented. After it came to power, the current democratic government decided to build the Rupsa Bridge. It is a source of considerable delight that China is interested in the construction of this bridge.

China has extended assistance for the development of Bangladesh's economic infrastructure from the very beginning. China has provided technical and financial assistance for the construction of a large number of bridges in the country, including the China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge over the Buriganga River in Dhaka. China's assistance in various sectors in Bangladesh—such as the construction of fertilizer and cement factories and in power production—has made the friendship and cooperation between the two countries memorable. Chinese cooperation in the economic reconstruction of war-ravaged Bangladesh was continuous. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries after the independence of Bangladesh, this cooperation has not only continued but has gradually increased. China is currently one of the leading partners and allies in Bangladesh's development.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said that preliminary work on the Rupsa Bridge project is expected to be completed during the proposed visit by the Chinese fact finding mission. Implementation of the Rupsa Bridge project is likely to bring about noteworthy development in the communication and transportation sectors in the Khulna region.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said that the Chinese leaders expressed keen interest in setting up joint venture industrial projects in different sectors in Bangladesh, including light engineering, electronics, leather, motorcycles, bicycles, small machinery, and spare parts. In this regard, the finance minister held detailed discussions with the relevant Chinese leaders during his week-long stay in China. He also held discussions on bilateral matters with the Chinese minister for foreign trade and economic cooperation, and visited Chinese industrial zones in Beijing, Shanghai, and (?Huangmu). A high-level delegation representing Chinese manufacturers will soon visit Bangladesh to inspect the facilities and opportunities available for setting up joint venture industries in Bangladesh. The finance minister held talks on this with the Chinese authorities. (Lu Rui Hua), acting governor of Guangdong Province, met with Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and briefed him on the province's recent economic success. Mr. (Lu Rui Hua) believes that the favorable atmosphere prevalent in Bangladesh has opened many opportunities for Chinese industrialists and investors.

It should be noted that Bangladesh has launched a massive program to encourage foreign investment and joint ventures with a view to expediting the country's industrialization. Under this program, foreign investors

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seeking to set up joint ventures will be provided with many facilities, including investment security; allowing investors to repatriate profits from their ventures; a tax holiday; a liberal policy on the import of machinery and raw materials; providing bank loans and technical assistance; development of export processing zones; and the opening of all sectors, with one or two exceptions, to private investment.

Bangladesh is trying to coordinate its economic reforms with the liberal democratic system with the goal of continuously developing the country. It is undeniable that political differences in the country are impeding development, progress, and prosperity to some extent. For the sake of the country's greater economic interests, if it is possible to reduce differences of opinion it would expedite the pace of development and help in achieving prosperity.

Iran

Embassy Staff Said Implicated in Argentine Bombing

PY0908011094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2149 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 8 Aug (NA)—A source close to the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] inquest revealed on 8 August that Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano has evidence that proves officials from the Iranian Embassy in Argentina were implicated in the bloody attack on the AMIA headquarters. The aforementioned source further reported that Judge Galeano will officially bring charges against them in the upcoming hours and submit the records to the Supreme Court.

The same source stated that these charges would be made against Iranian diplomats who are at present in Argentina as well as against two who left the country shortly before the terrorist attack perpetrated on 18 July.

Judge Galeano has allegedly settled the issue involving three Argentines who are allegedly implicated in the attack to varying degrees.

It was leaked today that they would be released for "lack of merit."

Once Judge Galeano makes a ruling on the case, he will submit the records to the Supreme Court so that it may settle the problem of jurisdiction on account of the fact that some of those implicated in the case enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Some 200 members of the Jewish community in Argentina, including Ruben Beraja, the president of the Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations, staged a demonstration outside the courthouse at midday today to demand a speedy clearing up of the attack. [passage omitted]

Judge Galeano might disclose on 9 August his decision concerning the situation of Carlos Tellerdin, who is at present the only detainee in the case involving the AMIA bombing.

Tellerdin was the last buyer of the Renault Traffic van that was used as a car-bomb in the attack, and the one who asked Ariel Nitzcaner and Marcelo Jouce, two mechanics, to repair the van.

Nitzcaner and Jouce were released on 5 August by order of Judge Galeano. [passage omitted]

Tellerdin testified that, after Jouce and Nitzcaner repaired the van, he sold it to a person named Ramon Martinez, who allegedly used a false name.

The description of the person who contended he was Ramon Martinez coincides with that of the person who reportedly purchased the Ford F-100 pick-up used in the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires on 17 March 1992. [passage omitted]

4 'Citizens' Sought

PY1008014294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0103 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Aug (NA)—Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano tonight called for the national and international search for and capture of four Iranian citizens within the framework of the investigation into the attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] building.

The judge also ordered the preventive arrest and trial of Carlos Tellerdin, the person who sold the Renault Traffic van to the terrorists who carried out the attack.

Galeano indicted Ariel Nitzcaner and Marcelo Jouce for the illegal replacement of the vehicle's engine. However, he later released Nitzcaner and temporarily released Jouce as well.

The four Iranian citizens, whose capture was called for by Judge Galeano, were identified as Ahmad Allameh Falsafi, Mavhash Monsef Ghocamreza, Akbar Parvaresch, and Abbas Zarkabi Krorazni.

The measure is taken "in order to receive their testimony." The document, however, does not specify the degree of their involvement in the attack.

'Baseless' Allegations Protested

LD1008102794 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Iran's protest note regarding the unfounded accusations against a number of Iranian nationals in connection with the recent explosion in Buenos Aires was handed over to the Argentine charge affaires, Martin A. Rivolta, here Wednesday morning.

"According to news reports, the Argentine justice in charge of the investigation regarding the recent explosion in Buenos Aires has levelled unfounded and unacceptable accusations against a number of Iranian nationals in a recent report," said the note.

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"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects these baseless and discourteous allegations and registers its strong protest against defaming Iranian dignitaries and officials," the note read.

It stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning all acts of terrorism and pursuant to note verbale no. 500/200 of 27 July 1994 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brings the following information concerning the four aforementioned Iranian citizens to the attention of the Government of the Republic of Argentine with a view to removing any doubts.

"The honorable Mr. Akbar Parvaresh, a deputy in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) had an official visit to Argentina from 3 to 6 December 1993, during which he had meetings and consultations with members of several committees of the parliament of Argentina.

"Mr. Ahmad Allameh Falsafi was assigned to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires from July 1989 to September 1992 and has not left Iran since then.

"Mr. 'Abbas Zarrabi-Khorasani was assigned to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires from October 1987 to March 1990. Since then he has only traveled once to the region in December 1990 in a 9-day diplomatic mission to Brazil."

"Mr. Gholamreza Mahvash Monsef was assigned to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires from January 1988 to October 1988 and has not since visited the American continent."

Therefore, the note added, the Islamic Republic of Iran draws the attention of the Government of the Republic of Argentina to the dates of departure of the abovementioned individuals from Argentina.

The departures, which took place between 9 months and six years ago, underlines the obvious baselessness of the reported accusations of the aforementioned Argentine justice and reiterates its expectation that the government of the Republic of Argentina would take all necessary steps in order to prevent dissemination of baseless fabrications against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its nationals.

Interpreter Said 'Exploited' by U.S. Intelligence

LD0908134594 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry interpreter suspected of "being exploited by the U.S. intelligence service" has been arrested, an informed source at the ministry told IRNA Tuesday.

The source made the remarks in response to a question as to the authenticity of a report earlier published in a weekly on the arrest of the interpreter.

"The suspect is in detention and the case is under investigation," the source said.

Asked why the news had not been released before, the source said that because of the sensitivity of the case from intelligence and security point of view, it was now under investigation.

He said, however, that the outcome of the investigation will be publicized by Iranian security officials at an appropriate time.

Tehran Set To Forge ROK-DPRK 'Understanding'

LD0908132894 Tehran IRNA in English 1222 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—A top parliamentarian here Tuesday said Tehran is ready to launch efforts to bring about understanding between the two Koreas, if the two countries are willing.

Vice-chairman of Majles foreign policy commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani, made the remark in a meeting this morning with South Korean ambassador to Tehran, Sin Song-o.

"In our opinion earlier opening of negotiations between the two countries will make the process of reaching an understanding easier," he said.

Larijani further added that this will pave the way for unification of the two Koreas adding that materialization of this objective depends on the desire of the people of the Korean peninsula.

The principle policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on controlling nuclear weapons and the Korean peninsula enjoys a great significance in this regard, he added.

The South Korean diplomat briefed Larijani on the ongoing U.S.-North Korean negotiations in Geneva.

Larijani who is also head of Majles research center, announced the center's readiness to cooperate with similar foreign centers.

The South Korean ambassador promised to make efforts to establish links between the center and similar South Korean institutions.

Velayati Said Seeking To Mediate Tajik Conflict

LD0908215294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has began his visit to the five countries of Central Asia and Caucasia on Tuesday 9 August.

The goal of Velayati's visit to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan is to promote ties with the countries of the region and have cooperation with them within the framework of the regional Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and the Caspian Sea Littoral States Cooperation Organization.

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Besides, talks will also be held with the concerned officials of the [word indistinct] on the latest political situation in the region specially the Tajik crisis and the Karabakh war.

It is worth mentioning that following the Iranian President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Central Asian countries and Caucasia last year, the officials of those countries have paid several visits to Iran and the current visit of Mr. Velayati to those countries, which is taking place at the invitation of their foreign ministers, is intended to promote Iran's ties with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan.

Experts of political issues consider Mr. Velayati's visit as significant in resolving the Tajik crisis and the Karabakh war.

They also underline the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in offering political solutions aimed at overcoming the regional crisis.

According to the experts: Iran's efforts to defusing the Tajik and Karabakh crisis are considered and effective measures.

In this connection it can sited that the Islamic Republic of Iran some time ago, for the first time, hosted talks in Tehran among the Russian representatives, the Tajik groups, and the representatives of the government of that country and its opponents.

At any rate this point was stressed by Dr. Velayati too in an interview with ITAR-TASS news agency prior to his tour of five countries of Central Asia and Caucasia.

Maintaining Iran's earlier stand on the termination of clashes in Tajikistan, he urged the two sides to hold talks and cautioned foreign countries against interference in the internal affairs of Tajikistan.

Among other points constantly stressed by the Islamic Republic of Iran are; Tehran's efforts to establish peace in the region, to check further casualties in the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia and to condemn the Armenian forces' attacks regions in Azerbaijan.

These points will also be among the main subjects of talks to be held by Dr. Velayati with the officials of two sides faced with the crisis.

In any case it is indisputable that regular visits of officials of these countries have a desirable impact in bringing about closeness in the view points of the regional states.

Hence current tour of Dr Velayati too is a suitable opportunity for bolstering Iran's relations with the countries of Central Asia and Caucasia.

Economic Ties With Arab States Viewed

LD0908141194 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 9 Aug 94

(Text] Athens, Aug. 9, IRNA—Despite the geographical vicinity between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the eastern Arab world, trade and economic exchanges are relatively small-scale and limited. A study on Arab-Iranian economic ties in the book "Arab-Iranian Relations" published in Arabic in Egypt recently cites three main reasons for this anomaly.

1. The connection of foreign trade between Iran and the Arab world with political relations: the tension in ties between Iran and Arab countries before or after the Islamic revolution had a negative effect on trade and economic ties between the two sides.

2. Similarity of export and import goods of Iran and the Arab states: over 90 percent of exports of Iran and the Arab world are made up of crude oil and hence they cannot find an export market for each other.

3. The need of hard currency by Iran and the Arab countries for trade exchanges. Before 1993 the Iranian rial was non-convertible and the Arab currency is either non-convertible or totally dependent on the American dollar.

Iran prefers to sell its products for hard currency because it needs foreign exchange for its imports from capitalist industrial countries. Particularly the non-availability of hard currency is a big hurdle impeding trade relations between Iran and the Arab world, underlines the 58-page study.

Neither Iran nor Arab countreis offer any payment facilities to importers which is also a barrier for development of trade.

The study, however, notes that Iran's non-oil exports can find a much more bigger market than the present one in most Arab countries if political relations are improved.

Iran's exports to Arab countries both in terms of value and quantity remain low. Tehran exports some agricultural goods, mainly nuts, fruits and vegetables to the Persian Gulf Arab states. Iran's industries like the sugar, car, petrochemcial, cement and television industries are focused on the local market, and—except for cars and buses—not export oriented.

Iran signed a dlrs 25 million agreement with Egypt for the export of buses assembled in Iran. The buses were exported in mid-seventies but soon after the dictatorial regime of the shah collapsed and Egypt has still not paid for the buses.

Iranian exports to Arab countries have been steadily declining, said the study citing figures and charts till the year 1991. In 1985 Iranian exports were worth dlrs 746m, in 1986 dlrs 285m, in 1987 dlrs 387m, in 1988 dlrs 219m, 1989 dlrs 286m, in 1990 dlrs 245m and in 1991 dlrs 206m. Iranian exports to Arab countries represented 5.4 percent, 3.8 percent, 3.5 percent, 2.7 percent, 2.5 percent, 1.6 percent, 1.7 percent from its total exports for the above mentioned period.

Syria was the biggest Arab importer of Iranian goods till 1988. Iranian exports to Syria dropped from dlrs 642m in 1985 to dlrs 30m in 1990.

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On the other hand, Iran's exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) showed a gradul upward trend increasing from dlrs 72m in 1985 to dlrs 154m in 1991, an increase of 113 percent. The UAE has become the most important market in the Arab world for future Iranian exports.

Iran's exports to Saudi Arabia fell drastically from dlrs 28m in 1987 to dlrs 4m in 1988. Since 1990 Saudi Arabia has stopped importing any goods from Iran.

Kuwait was considered the fourth most important trading partner of Iran, but it stopped importing Iranian goods after the Iraqi-Kuwait war in 1991 after Kuwait changed its import policy. Most of Kuwait's imports now come from the United States.

From Iran's non-oil exports worth dlrs 1,021m in the year 1988-89 goods worth dlrs 143.8m went to the UAE.

Iranian imports from the Arab world continued dropping till 1989, when it started the upward trend following the end of the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war. Iran's imports from the Arab world were worth dlrs 475m in 1985, dlrs 707m in 1986, dlrs 477m in 1987, dlrs 435m in 1988, dlrs 1,271m in 1989, dlrs 1,365m in 1990 and dlrs 1,327m in 1991. The most important Arab exporter to Iran is the UAE whose exports to Tehran leaped from dlrs 350m in 1985 to dlrs 1,044m in 1991. It is to be noted that the bulk of Iran's imports from the UAE, mainly from Dubayy, are goods not manufactured in the emirates but transit trade. The UAE imports the goods and re-exports them to Iran.

Till 1989 Syria was the second biggest Arab exporter to Iran, but from 1989 Syrian exports started falling not exceeding dlrs 15m in 1990. Iran's imports from Oman jumped from dlrs 2m in 1989 to dlrs 192m in 1990 and maintained the same level in 1991. Regarding Jordanian-Iranian trade relations, Iran did not import anything from Amman till 1989. In 1990 Iran imported goods worth dlrs 1m and the following year Iranian imports from Jordan jumped to dlrs 49m.

In 1985 the trade balance with the Arab countries was in favor of Iran to the value of dlrs 271m, but from 1986 it started falling and in 1991 the trade balance was negative for Iran to the value of dlrs 1,161m. The study predicts that any development in Arab-Iranian economic ties will be linked with political developments between the two sides.

President Receives New Ambassadors

LD0908150294 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in two separate meetings, received new Brazilian ambassador, Sergio Tutikian and new Portuguese ambassador, Manuel Marcelo Curto, here Tuesday.

Submitting his credentials to President Rafsanjani, the Portuguese ambassador said he was ready to do his best to further promote and consolidate Tehran-Lisbon ties in all domains particularly in political, economic and trade fields.

Marcelo Curto conveyed to President Rafsanjani the greetings of his Portuguese counterpart and expressed hope that the Iranian nation will live ever in peace.

President Rafsanjani in return referred to the stable Tehran-Lisbon ties and said the two countries can broaden their ties in all areas.

In his meeting with the Brazilian ambassador, President Rafsanjani referred to the political will and the existing facilities both in Iran and Brazil and described as very positive the grounds for deepening mutual and international cooperation.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the expansion of Tehran-Brasilia ties on the basis of mutual interest.

Tutikian in return noted the intimate and traditional ties between Tehran and Brasilia and said his mission to Iran aimed at boosting friendly ties and creating deeper links between the two countries.

The Brazilian ambassador submitted his credentials to Rafsanjani and expressed hope that Iranian officials will assist him to promote Tehran-Brasilia industrial, trade and economic relations.

Majles Continues Reading of Development Plan

LD1008111894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] In its open session today, the Islamic Consultative Assembly continued the first reading of the Islamic Republic of Iran's second economic, social, and cultural development plan and reviewed and approved a number of articles proposed by different Majles commissions for inclusion in the bill.

Some of today's ratifications concerned the following: a proposed article about the method of calculating tariffs on fuel, water, and telephone charges for private and state sports centers; an article that instructs the government to adopt decentralization policies and give people greater involvement in the process of correcting, reforming, and improving the country's administrative system; and an article about the provision of facilities necessary for the presence of Iranian firms and organizations in the international markets and the export of engineering services abroad so as to boost the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Furthermore, the government was instructed to meet, by the end of the second development plan, all the country's needs for electronic goods and services from domestic sources.

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Satellite Broadcasts Discussed

LD0908193294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] In the second part of the open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, which took place this afternoon, a number of proposals of various deputies and Majles committees concerning some articles of the Second Five-Year Development Plan bill were discussed and approved.

According to one of the articles approved, the government is duty-bound to allocate the required funding in its annual budgets in order to play an active role in the world's cultural and news forums. Furthermore, the use of satellites to reach audiences in other countries and efforts for the creation of international and Islamic radio and television networks was also underlined in the approved article. [passage omitted]

Ration Coupons To Continue

LD0908184894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpts] In response to the article approved by the Coordination Committee of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the distribution of ration coupons for essential commodities will continue during the Second Five-Year Plan. The deputy commerce minister in charge of internal trade announced this in an interview with IRNA today. [passage omitted]

Regarding the payment of subsidies for essential commodities, he said: During this year [ending 20 March 1995], the government will pay over three billion rials in subsidies toward rationed goods, including milk.

Minister Discusses Foreign Investment Bill

LD1008111794 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug 10, IRNA—The Minister of Heavy Industry Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Hoseynian announced here Tuesday that "deep-rooted" problems in heavy industry have been removed except one. In an interview with the English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" published Wednesday, the minister said "ambiguity in the laws concerning foreign investment is one of the main hurdles", adding that the cabinet will send a bill in this respect to the Majlis for approval.

On the achievements of the First Five-Year Plan (March 1989-March 1994), he said the growth rate in the heavy industry was 18.6 percent, higher than the 14.2 percent envisaged for the plan. The minister announced that rls. one trillion [rials] and dlrs. 1.7 billion were invested during the first five-year plan.

"The export during the first plan was predicted to be dlrs. 1.6 billion, but it could not go beyond dlrs. 400 million", the daily quoted him as saying.

"We have succeeded in exporting tractors worth dlrs. 15 billion [as received] to Libya and other countries in the current Iranian year (beginning March 21)", the heavy industry minister remarked. Iran along with European countries participated in and won a tender for the supply of 440 railway wagons to Syria, he concluded.

Justice Minister on New Law on Public Courts

NC1008085194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Interview with Justice Minister Mohammad Shushtari by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Public courts will start operating today. Please tell us about the special characteristics of the new judicial system.

[Shushtari] With the approval of the law on public and revolution courts, which is being implemented today, the country's judicial system will face a general and fundamental change.

The special characteristics that will, God willing, be the outcome of the implementation of this system in the country will largely be as follows: Under the Constitution, citizens have the right of access to judicial units. We should regulate the expansion of the judicial machinery so that all the people will have easy access to it.

Among the major objectives of this law and something that is considered a special characteristic of the law is that people's claims will be studied faster. This will mean that two-phased study of a case will be reduced to one phase, shortening the time needed for legal procedures.

Another special characteristic of the law is that the plurality of decisionmaking centers that deal with legal issues has been concentrated. The handling of legal, penal, and non-litigious affairs has been concentrated in one place. Naturally the people will not be confused and will apply to only one place concerning all their affairs and problems.

With the existing system in the country not every judicial unit enjoys general authority. The situation in many provinces or districts that have judicial units is such that the people have no alternative but to apply to other provinces or provincial capitals for their claims and complaints. With the law on public and revolution courts, each judicial district will have general authority to deal with all complaints and claims and people need not apply to other provinces or units.

Another major characteristic of the law is that many low-level claims need not be reviewed or reinvestigated, unlike major claims for which second-hearing centers have been set up in the provincial capitals to safeguard the people's rights. Cases will stop being brought to the Supreme Court.

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On the whole the implementation of the public and revolution courts will help the people and accelerate the examination of people's claims and complaints.

[Correspondent] In the new legal system, former laws on legal issues will be abrogated. What will be the situation of the revolution public prosecution courts in the new system?

[Shushtari] The law has envisaged this system being implemented gradually within a five-year period. The law has envisaged that in each legal district where this law is implemented, the inconsistent laws in that district will be abrogated. But in places where the new system is not implemented, the old system and laws will still apply. So the public and revolution public prosecution courts will be dissolved and public and revolution courts will be set up in each legal district where this law is implemented. Public prosecution courts will no longer operate next to courts. But in districts where the law has not yet been implemented, the old laws will still apply.

[Correspondent] When will this law start to be implemented and what steps have been taken to brief the judges?

[Shushtari] According to civil law, a law can be implemented 15 days after its publication in the official gazette, so this law can be implemented from today. We will have an explanatory session with all the presidents of the courts of all the provinces. God willing, this law will be implemented countrywide—in all 25 provinces—but gradually, district by district.

[Correspondent] Thank you for attending this interview.

[Shushtari] You are welcome.

* Several New Appointments Announced

94LA0231H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 20 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] By order of Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpayegani, minister of culture and higher education, Dr. 'Alireza Medqalchi was appointed as president of the Gorgan Teacher Training University, Dr. 'Ali Akbar 'Enayati was appointed as president of the Gorgan Agricultural Sciences University, Dr. Seyyed Yahya Yasrabi was appointed as supervisor of Kordestan University, Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Khoda'i was appointed as president of Razi University in Kermanshah, and Ms. Fa'ezeh Hashèmi was appointed as supervisor of the first round of sisters solidarity games for students from Islamic nations.

* New Appointments to Various Offices Announced

94LA0231F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 13 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] By order of Dr. 'Ali Larijani, chief of the Voice and Vision organization, Mehdi Shahid-Kolahri was appointed as the new general manager of this organization's Center for Music and Anthems, and assumed his duties.

Dr. Ahmad Purnejati, deputy director of the Voice and Vision organization, issued an order appointing Mohammad Mehdi Haydarian as executive director of the Sima Film Institute.

Dr. Hoseyn Keshavarzi was appointed general manager of scholarships and students outside the country in the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education.

By order of the foreign minister, Ramin Mehmanparast-Nowdehi was not appointed as this ministry's general manager of cultural coordination and propaganda. [sentence as published]

General Davud Mirza'i was appointed as the new commander of the Mehrabad Airport Police Precinct, and was introduced at a ceremony.

Need To End Oil Revenue 'Bondage' Seen

LD1008085494 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text) Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday commented on the Majlis approval of a package bill relating to the Second Five-Year Development Plan and suggested that the government should put into place mechanisms which will protect those with the least earning power against the adverse effects of ending the subsidies.

Referring to remarks made by proponents and opponents of the package in the Majlis, the "TEHRAN TIMES" said that the First Five-Year Plan was hastily put together in only one year, immediately after the end of the Iraqi imposed war.

"Therefore", the editorial added "it suffered from the fact that there was not enough time for deliberations before it was implemented".

"The two most important parts of the bill deal with social justice and an oil-free economy", the daily said adding that ending subsidies of petroleum products are necessary both because it benefits the high-income group as well as the lower-income strata, and because the extra revenue, which will be generated when the subsidies are ended, is needed to maintain and expand the oil sector.

"We need to free our economy from its bondage to oil revenues", the article said and continued that the government and the people's representatives are charged with the responsibility to accomplish this crucial goal through prudent and realistic planning, and by learning from the successes and failures of the first five-year development plan.

* Bomb Explodes in Post Office Building

94LA0232B London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Last Friday evening, 15 July, a bomb went off in Khorramabad, shaking one of the buildings of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone in this city.

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According to the newspaper KAR VA KARGAR, affiliated with the Islamic Republic regime, as the result of this bomb explosion, which occurred at 2305 local time, much damage was done to the Post and Telegraph building, and the glass in this building and surrounding buildings was shattered.

* Evin Prison Engulfed in Flames for 5 Hours

94LA0232A London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] In the first hours of the dawn on Saturday 16 July [25 Tir], a large fire broke out at Evin Prison that lasted five hours. Reuter reported from Tehran that citizens near Evin Prison also heard explosions. The surrounding buildings shook from these explosions, which were called "dreadful." On Saturday afternoon prison officials said the fire was caused by an electrical wire connection and said the fire set off mines surrounding the prison. After the Islamic revolution the Islamic Republic mined the area around Evin to prevent prisoner escapes.

According to these officials, no one was hurt in the fire. The only thing destroyed by the fire was bushes and small trees in a area of 3,000 square meters on Evin Hill.

According to a report by AFP, on Saturday morning the effects of the fire were indisputable. Two days after the fire, an official from the office of Asadollah Lajevardi announced that the fire had no connection with Evin Prison. Despite all this, he added: The fire started because of an electrical wire connecting to the mines around Evin, and there was no kind of loss of life. He denied that there were fires in parts of Evin Prison.

AFP reports that the West Tehran fire department said it sent 25 fire trucks to Evin Prison to put out the fire.

In a telephone contact made Saturday afternoon with Evin Prison to obtain information beyond what was published, a prison official answered that the information published was sufficient. To additional questions regarding any possible victims, he answered that the issue is secret. According to Asadollah Lajevardi, Evin Prison has 2,750 prisoners.

Opposition Reaction

The Babak Khorramdin Organization issued a statement claiming responsibility for the fire at Evin Prison, calling it a response to the bombing at the shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza, which it blamed on the regime. The Babak Khorramdin statement says:

At 0215 on Saturday morning a powerful bomb went off in the administrative department of the central building at Evin Prison in Tehran, killing a large group of the Islamic Republic's mercenaries and executioners.

On the other hand, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization published a statement saying the fire at Evin was caused by the regime itself in order to destroy the Mojahedin inside Evin.

* Paris Publication Analyzes Monarchists, MKO

94LA0231G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 13 Jul 94 p 15

[Text] Tehran, 18 Tir [9 July] (KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service)—In an analysis of the expatriate opposition, a Persian-language publication published in Paris, discussed the projected future of the various opposition groups and concluded that ultimately the monarchists will join with Rajavi's apparatus to form a terrorist union to fight the Islamic Republic, but they will suffer many casualties and be defeated.

In its issue for the month of Ordibehesht [21 April-20 May], the monthly publication ERSHAD, published in Paris, published an article entitled: "The Opposition of Tomorrow." It wrote: "Every year the Iran National Resistance Council [in this instance referred to as the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization—MKO] turns up another ace to keep its fires burning. Last year it did this by accepting the Lion and Sun logo and the "Oh Iran" anthem. In the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] it did this by holding concerts and dancing and singing parties to distance itself from its previous prejudices and to draw new people into its organization."

The monthly publication ERSHAD added: "For some time the Mojahedin organization has had contacts with the supporters of constitutional monarchy. It has invited them to its meetings and ceremonies, and they have exchanged proposals, video tapes and other things. It has gone so far as to embrace Farah Pahlavi and to emphasize that they have good memories of her husband's era (the dictatorial government). In articles that it sends to the (monarchist) publication KEYHAN, published in London on the pretext of giving answers and other things, it indicates that in the not-too-distant future, we will see some of the supporters of constitutional monarchy fighting alongside the National Resistance Council! No matter how much the National Resistance Council tries to shake the hand of Reza Pahlavi, it will have to climb a lot of steps to reach this goal!"

This publication mentioned the fact that Rajavi has married Maryam Qajar-'Ozdanlu and has presented her as his equal, assigning to her the position of president of the Republic of Iran. It wrote: "There is no doubt that Rajavi also wants somehow to bring the Pahlavists and the Pahlavis into his domain!"

Continuing its analytical article, the monthly publication ERSHAD discussed Reza Pahlavi's desire to gain political influence among Iranians outside the country. It wrote: "In an interview with Radio France Internationale early in the new year, Pahlavi discussed the six-month installation period for the temporary government and then the holding of free elections. These remarks show a similarity between his policies and the projects and plans of the National Resistance Council."

This publication mentioned the organization's recent activities among the Los Angeles cabaret artists and

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musicians. It wrote: "Soon the Mojahedin organization intends to form a society of Iranian artists and to bring some of the singers living in Los Angeles into its domain. There is no doubt, however, that the management of this organization will be done by the artists who are members of the Mojahedin organization, and that newcomers will not have an important role to play in the decisions."

The same publication predicts that if the Mojahedin organization, which is now playing the role scripted by its Iraqi hosts, invades Iranian soil, there is a 99-percent chance that it will be defeated.

* KEYHAN-E HAVA'I Critical of Ayatollah Montazeri

94LA0232C London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] In a relatively harsh letter to the weekly publication KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, Ayatollah Montazeri's office in Qom said that a report by this publication several days ago concerning the firing of Ayatollah Montazeri's former adviser was without foundation, and it asked KEYHAN-E HAVA'I to refrain from spreading rumors. In answer to this letter, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I harshly attacked Ayatollah Montazeri for confronting Ayatollah Khomeyni and opposing him and supporting the Mehdi Hashemi group. It noted that in a statement he recently published concerning the bombing at the shrine of Imam Reza, Ayatollah Montazeri did not condemn the Mojahedin.

The chief of Ayatollah Montazeri's office, Seyyed Asghar Nazemzadeh, wrote to KEYHAN-E HAVA'I: As everyone knows, His Holiness Ayatollah Montazeri, may his blessed life be long, is one of the chief sources of emulation. One of the major responsibilities of the chief sources of emulation is to answer queries to him from various people and from the respected clergy with regard to the commands of religious law and divine responsibilities. They make deductions based on his reputable reasoning. Acting on this important responsibility is not something that requires an adviser or advisers. It is therefore improper to speak of the "firing of Ayatollah Montazeri's former advisers." Of course, for the sake of greater certainty, care and caution in giving proper and clear answers to questions, the chief sources of emulation hold meetings for inquiry attended by a number of prominent clergymen, and His Holiness Ayatollah Montazeri is no exception to this rule.

In clear conformity with his religious obligation, His Holiness Ayatollah Montazeri issued an order, a photo copy of which is enclosed [not reproduced], assigning the responsibility for his office to me. It is clear that my duties are in the framework of the responsibilities assigned in this order, which are to complete the cadre, organize relationships, and make changes. In any case it is necessary to exercise greater care in obtaining news and in its quality, organization and announcement. News items and reports should be obtained only through the proper officials so that, God forbid, there will be no disrespect shown for the sacred position of the clergy and the grand sources of emulation.

The answer from KEYHAN-E HAVA'I to Ayatollah Montazeri's office says:

A point that was definitely not mentioned by the new and old operators in the office of Ayatollah Montazeri is that Ayatollah Montazeri was actually elevated to prominence as a part of the Islamic revolution and as a supporter of Ayatollah Khomeyni's (may God be pleased with him) movement, and that his credibility and political position was closely connected with this movement. Although efforts have been made recently to create a new position for him, it is no secret to anyone that the phantom operators have had the people they want with them since the beginning, and that these kinds of connections will not produce a significant result.

Therefore, as has been stated repeatedly, the solution to the problem must be sought through a sincere approach to the late Imam's positions, because the Imam wanted nothing other than Mr. Montazeri's happiness in this world and the next. As experience has proven, this was not possible without inspiration from Khizr, the unseen spiritual guide.

Although in its report of 7 Ordibehesht [27 March] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I interpreted the changes in Mr. Montazeri's house as good fortune and regarded it as a step, though much belated and the equivalent of an antidote for the death of Sohrab, towards paying attention to our late Imam's advice, there were also indications that proved the opposite, and when preparing the report we did not seek the reasons for that. In our comments now, however, we will mention several points.

Ayatollah Montazeri's order to the new official in charge of his office says the following: "At the same time it is advised that with regard to basic tasks you consult with my son, Mr. Haj Ahmad Aqa Montazeri, who is a learned and good person and has my confidence and trust in every way."

What does this sentence suggest, in view of Mr. Ahmad Montazeri's past collaboration with Hadi Hashemi? If, in the performance of basic tasks, the same faction will have control over the office making the determinations, doesn't this promote the idea that, God forbid, the aforementioned changes have been made for the purpose of concealing the realities from the forces of the revolution and Imam Khomeyni's (peace be upon him) movement?

In view of what took place between His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) and Ayatollah Montazeri, in addition to clarifying his weak political insight, from the standpoint of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), Mr. Montazeri's qualifications for justice were also unconfirmed because of his support for Mehdi Hashemi's gang. Therefore, this new effort by the office will not carry that much weight among the followers of the Imam (peace be upon him).

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Ayatollah Montazeri's refusal to condemn the Mojahedin organization in the proclamation that was issued on the tragedy of the bombing of Imam Reza's (peace be upon him) pure shrine and the continuation of this refusal after what happened was made completely clear definitely raises the same problem that ultimately places him in opposition to the Imam.

It is worth mentioning that in the year 1989 Ayatollah Montazeri also never agreed to validate the religious decree condemning Salman Rushdie, and he deferred giving his definitive opinion until he reads the book *The Satanic Verses*.

There are unconfirmed reports of severe clashes in Najafabad in Esfahan, most of which come from Ayatollah Montazeri supporters and emulators. Several people were apparently killed in these clashes. It is said that the regime arrested tens to hundreds of people in connection with these clashes.

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